



## ASOCIACIÓN DE GEÓGRAFOS ESPAÑOLES: PERSPECTIVAS DE INTERNACIONALIZACIÓN

**PROF. CARMEN DELGADO. PRESIDENTA DE LA AGE**

*MESA REDONDA CON EL PROFESOR VLADIMIR KOLOSOV. PRESIDENTE DE LA UGR*

Dear Professor Kolosov, dear colleagues and friends

Good morning everyone and thank you very much for your presence here today.

It is an honor and a great satisfaction for me to share with you this meeting, both from a personal and institutional perspective, as the President of the Association of Spanish Geographers.

The activity that we will develop today, as everyone knows via the program, aims to progress in the stimulus of the internationalization of the work of the Spanish geographers and, finally, to promote the improvement of international projection of Spanish Geography.

These objectives correspond to one of the priorities and the proposals included in the program with which I presented my candidacy for the presidency of the Association of Spanish Geographers in October two thousand and thirteen.

I am pleased to inform you that, in the timeframe of just over a year, we have made important steps toward that goal, we have integrated into the Eurogeo association, we have signed two new agreements with foreign geographical societies: the Russian Geographical Society and the Geographical Society of Kazakhstan. And we also have established a framework agreement with the International University of Andalusia to realize any type of scientific activities of

international nature in their headquarters of Baeza and La Rabida (Congresses, symposia, Conferences, Workshop, etc.).

It has been precisely, in relation to one of these activities, when the original idea to plan the today's work arose. In late October, Professor Marina Frolova, member of the Association of Spanish Geographers for international relations, and myself, have traveled to Moscow to sign the cited agreement with the Russian Geographical Society. There, we had the opportunity to hear Professor Kolosov, who, in his dual role as the Member of the Academic Council of the Russian Geographical Society and the President of the International Geographical Union, intervened to explain some aspects and projects of this organization. Then, we thought it would be interesting to invite him to come to Spain and to explain to us, directly and more widely, the projects and activities of the International Geographical Union in which the partners of Association of Spanish Geographers could participate, individually and through our Working Groups.

As you all well know, the Association of Spanish Geographers is integrated into the International Geographical Union long time ago. The Association of Spanish Geographers rotates the presidency and the first general secretariat of Spanish Committee with the Royal Geographical Society every four years.

Precisely, at this moment, the Association of Spanish Geographers holds these positions, myself as the Chairperson of Spanish Committee, and Professor Rosa Cañada as its General Secretary. Professor Marina Frolova also occupies one of the three positions corresponding to the Association of Spanish Geographers on the Committee.

This close relationship between the Association of Spanish Geographers and the International Geographical Union consists of, especially, in the Spanish participation in the international conferences and other exchanges of information and experiences. Currently, the Spanish Committee is finalizing the Spanish participation in the International Geographical Union Congress to be held at Beijing in two thousand and sixteen; and precisely, today we are here for realizing such exchanges of information and experiences.

Likewise, two partners of the Association of Spanish Geographers preside over two working committees of the International Geographical Union: Professor Josefina Dominguez Mujica, who chairs the Commission 17 on Global Change and Human Mobility, and Professor Jacobo García-Álvarez, president of the Commission 20 on History of Geography.

The working day we are beginning has as central nucleus a round table discussion that will be coordinated by professors Rosa Cañada and Marina Frolova. The round table will begin with a lecture by Professor Kolosov, and then the chairs of the permanent committees of some Working Groups of the

Association of Spanish Geographers will present us the international activities of their respective Groups.

Professor Manuel Valenzuela, member of the Spanish Committee of the International Geographical Union representing the Royal Geographical Society, has also been invited to speak. Professor Manuel Valenzuela has been for many years the representative of the Spanish Committee at the General Assembly of the International Geographical Union.

Professor Jacobo García-Álvarez, as chairman of the Committee on the History of Geography, has also been invited to speak.

I don't want to extend more on this preamble and I'm going to introduce the lecturer.

Professor Vladimir Kolosov was elected as the President of the International Geographical Union at the thirty-third International Geographical Congress in Cologne (in August two thousand and twelve). Before, since nineteen ninety one, Professor Kolosov was involved in the activities of the International Geographical Union, first as a member and then as the Chair of the Commission on Political Geography. In October two thousand and six, he was elected as a Vice-President and, two years later, as the First Vice-President.

He also plays a leading role in the preparation of Regional Conference of International Geographical Union to be held next august in Moscow. Professor Kolosov is also, as I noted before, a member of the Presidium of the Academic Council of the Russian Geographical Society.

Expert in the fields of political geography and geopolitics, he founded, in nineteen ninety three, the Centre of Geopolitical Studies at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He has been a professor at Moscow State University and at the Institute of International Relations, also in Moscow.

Vladimir Kolosov acquired extensive experience of international scientific cooperation teaching and researching at foreign universities and laboratories in several countries: Belgium, United Kingdom, United States, etc.

He has also conducted many research projects supported by Russian institutions, European Framework Programmes and organizations in several European and American countries. He has taught at the universities of Toulouse-Le Mirail, Paris IV-Sorbonne, Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Bordeaux, Le Havre and Tampere in France.

He is the author of nearly three hundred and fifty publications, including one hundred and ten works abroad and six individual monographs; He is the principal author and editor of eleven books.

In addition, he is part of the editorial boards of numerous journals of great international prestige: Political Geography, Geopolitics, Belgeo, Eurasian Geography and Economics, Annales Géographiques and other foreign and Russian journals. He is a Foreign Member of the French Geographical Society and Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of Le Havre.

Although the curriculum of Professor Kolosov is much more extensive, I think these few strokes are enough to get an idea of who is the lecturer, who, moreover, was already known to us all.

Thank you very much again to all for your presence. I hope this working day will be very useful for us all. Without further ado, I give the floor to the professors coordinators of the roundtable and I invite Professor Kolosov to speak.

Madrid, March 3, 2015

Carmen Delgado Viñas, President of the Association of Spanish Geographers