

Privatising Cadastral Surveying in Norway

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ABSTRACT

Currently it is a municipal monopoly on undertaking cadastral surveying in Norway. A committee appointed by the Government to draft a new law on the cadastre has proposed to remove the municipal monopoly in favour of private licensed surveyors. The author, who chaired the law committee, will discuss the pros and cons of privatising cadastral surveying.

A key issue is to understand and design the appropriate role of a private surveyor in a modern, market based, economy. At least in the Norwegian context, he or she should be an advisor on land and property matters, acting in a much wider role than producing coordinates and maps. Following up on this, it is important to distinguish between the *services* to be provided by the private professionals, and *authority* which should remain with the public sector. Ensuring quality of services in a competitive environment, inter alia through providing adequate education and post graduate training, as well as arrangements for licensing and liabilities, is an important matter.

The paper will particularly discuss the transition from the current public sector monopoly to private licensed professionals. This includes measures to ensure continuous services to the public as well as facilitating post graduate training for surveyors moving from public to private sector.

It is expected that the draft law on the cadastre will be presented to the Parliament early 2002, and come into force from 2004.

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