

# Draft Minutes of the EMS Council Meeting Sofia, 10th and 11th July 2010

## Section A: Preliminary items

### A1 Welcome to delegates, and acceptance of invited guests

The President welcomed everybody, delegates and guests, attending the Council, and thanked the local organisers for all their work. He reminded people to sign the list of those present, whether they were delegates or guests, and he asked Council formally to accept the presence of the invited guests.

[The list of delegates will appear in a separate document.]

### A3 Acceptance of the Agenda

A new item B4.2 was inserted, and it was also proposed that item B4 should be taken after B5. With these changes, the agenda was accepted.

### A4 Minutes of the last Council meeting, in Utrecht

These were approved.

### A5 Scrutineers

Jana Madjarova and Graziano Gentili were elected as scrutineers.

## Section B: Reports, Finance, and Membership

### B1 Report of the President

- The President began his discussion of the preparations for the 6ECM in Krakow in 2012 by expressing the regret of the mathematical community over the death of Andrzej Pelczar in May. He was extremely grateful to the Polish mathematicians for their efforts to continue the preparations as smoothly as possible, thus realising a great dream of Andrzej's. He reported that the following committee chairs had been appointed, noting with pleasure the new prize in the history of mathematics sponsored by Springer:

**Programme Committee** Eduard Feireisl

**Prizes Committee** Frances Kirwan

**Felix Klein Prize Committee** Wil Schilders

**History of Mathematics Prize Committee** Jeremy Gray

A call for bids to host the 7ECM in 2016 would be published in the September *EMS Newsletter*.

- Meetings of Presidents had been held in 2008 in Luminy and 2009 in the Banach Center, and were extremely successful. It was very unfortunate that the meeting planned in Bucharest this year had had to be cancelled because of the volcanic ash, and the President thanked the Romanian Mathematical Society for all their hard work in preparing for this meeting. He invited people to consider possible venues for the 2011 meeting.
- The EMS publishing house has continued to be very successful, and would be discussed in more detail later in the Council. It would be very good if even more journals could move to the EMS publishing house, and the President invited delegates to think about possibilities here.
- The “Forward Look for Mathematics in Industry” is a very successful project, with a great deal of work in progress. There has been a high-profile “Consensus Conference” in Madrid in April, and a planned final conference in Brussels on the 2nd of December.
- The “MATHEI” infrastructure bid had failed, but the President argued that its preparation had been an extremely valuable and durable collaboration across the entire mathematical community. The work done was not wasted, and he would continue to push for support for similar projects, such as the call for “e-infrastructures”. He noted that the decision-making over the MATHEI bid had been highly political.

Council approved the President’s report with acclaim.

## **B2** Report of the Executive Committee

The Secretary gave a short report of the meetings of the Executive Committee since the Utrecht Council, which have been held in:

- Valencia, 8–9 November 2008
- Athens, 21–22 March 2009
- Istanbul, 17–18 October 2009
- Edinburgh, 20–21 March 2010
- Sofia, 9–10 July 2010

He expressed the gratitude of the EC to the hosts of all these meetings.

The Secretary then introduced Susan Oakes to Council, explaining that Susan is working with national mathematical societies, helping to increase individual membership of the EMS. He finished his report by noting that the database which the EMS holds of national mathematical societies may not have up to date information on the delegates of those societies, in every case. He undertook to make this a priority.

Then Helge Holden, Vice President, described the most recent developments on the EMS web site, whose url is

<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/>

- The site has moved to Helsinki.
- The membership database is now live: individual members can log in, edit their details, pay fees online, and see the list of members.
- News items are welcome.
- The conference diary may be used both to advertise a conference and to plan one in such a way that clashes are avoided.
- The jobs page is becoming more popular, but still has room for considerable expansion.

Forthcoming developments include the option for member societies to log in and edit their details, and a section containing book reviews. Helge ended his presentation by inviting suggestions for new things which our web site might do.

This report was also approved with acclaim.

### **B3 Finance**

#### **B3.2 Financial statements and auditors reports for 2008 and 2009**

The Treasurer described these in detail, commenting on fluctuations and trends. The financial statements and auditors' reports were then approved by Council.

#### **B3.3 Budget and membership fees, 2011 and 2012**

The proposed budget for the next two years was described in detail, together with the formal "Report on Activities". The proposed membership fees were unchanged from the current fees. The following questions were asked.

- Are we using the cheapest printing for the *Newsletter*? It was agreed to put this to Thomas Hintermann, but it was also noted that there are other significant costs.
- How many individual members do we have? This is not very well-defined, but approximately 2,400.

Then Council approved the budget.

## B5 Statutes and By-Laws

**B5.1** The Secretary explained to Council that until very recently the law in Finland had not allowed us to implement the changes to the Statutes and By-Laws which had been agreed at the Utrecht Council, and that we had been advised to confirm those agreed changes in this meeting of Council. The new Statutes and By-Laws agreed at the Utrecht Council were as follows.

*Statutes:*

*Article 3.8: Members take decisions by ballot when this is authorized by the Statutes. The procedure shall be regulated by the By-laws.*

*Article 5.1: Council elections are held every second year by vote according to the Statutes and By-laws.*

*Article 5.4: Full members will, as decided by the Council, be divided according to size and resources into four classes having 1, 2, 3, or 4 delegates. This division may be revised when appropriate.*

*By-Laws:*

*Rule 23: Full members in classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Art. 5.4) shall pay  $x$ ,  $3x$ ,  $5x$ , and  $8x$  respectively in annual dues.*

*Rule 27: Individual members shall pay the annual fee  $y$ . Individual members belonging to a corporate member of the EMS shall pay the annual fee  $[y/2]$ . Individual members belonging to a society having a reciprocity agreement with the EMS shall pay an annual fee  $[3y/4]$ .*

*Rule 28: A research student or postdoctoral mathematician can have a two-year introductory fee of  $[y/4]$  until at most two years have passed from his or her doctoral degree, not counting any career breaks.*

Council confirmed its approval of these new Statutes and By-Laws.

**B5.2** The Secretary introduced the new By-Law proposed by the Executive Committee:

*Sub-committees of the Executive Committee will normally have both their remit and their membership determined by the EC. The term of office of members of these sub-committees will be four years, with a possible second term of four years. No member can serve as Chair for more than six years in total. Each sub-committee will prepare reports for the EC at least annually.*

He explained that this is no more than the current practice, but that the Executive Committee would prefer to have this written down as a By-Law. It would be number 22, with the old Rule 22 becoming 23 and so on.

Council agreed to adopt this new By-Law.

## **B4** Membership

### **B4.1** Change of class of corporate members

Council approved the request from the London Mathematical Society to change from class 3 to class 4.

The question was asked whether a member Society could send fewer delegates to Council than its class would determine, while still having the number of votes given by its class. This is clearly ruled out by the Statutes, and it was agreed that the Executive Committee should consider whether to propose a change in the Statutes at the next Council.

### **B4.2** Election of Full Members

Mitrofan Cioban, President of the Mathematical Society of the Republic of Moldova, gave a short presentation in support of the application to join the EMS. This was approved by acclaim by the Council.

## **Section C: Elections**

### **C1** Elections to Executive Committee

The President reminded Council that only delegates were entitled to vote, and informed Council that as the Moscow Mathematical Society had not paid its fee then technically its representatives could not vote. It was explained to Council that the invoice had not reached the correct person in Moscow, and an undertaking was given that the fee would be paid very soon. Council agreed to make an exception and allow the representatives from the Moscow Mathematical Society to vote.

No new candidates were proposed from the floor for the officer positions. Marta Sanz-Solé gave a short presentation of her candidacy for President, emphasizing her wish to help the EMS become more influential and visible, and to have more members. This was received by acclaim by the Council, and Marta Sanz-Solé was then elected President.

Mireille Martin-Deschamps spoke briefly about her candidacy for Vice-President, and was then elected.

The Secretary explained to Council that Martin Raussen, who had been a member of the executive Committee for two years, was standing for election as Vice-President for a two-year term. This was because while the Statutes said nothing about the term of an officer elected from within the Executive Committee, if the normal four-year term were chosen now, then Martin Raussen would not be able to be re-elected for a second term without breaking the rule limiting service to eight years. So choosing a two-year term now gave Council most options in future.

Martin Raussen then spoke briefly about his candidacy for Vice-President, and was elected.

Jouko Väänänen and Stephen Huggett spoke briefly about their candidacies for Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and were elected.

The President then introduced the procedure for electing the remaining members of the Executive Committee. Firstly, there were no new candidates from the floor. He proposed to invite Mario Primicerio to speak for Volker Mehrmann, who was unable to attend Council. This was agreed.

After short presentations by the candidates, the Secretary asked delegates to put marks against up to two candidates on the ballot papers, and the vote was taken.

While the ballot papers were being collected, the Treasurer introduced Terhi Hautala to Council. Terhi will form the EMS Secretariat in Helsinki from the 6th of August.

In the elections, the votes were as follows:

- Vasile Berinde 20
- Rui Loja Fernandes 26
- Ignacio Luengo 7
- Volker Mehrmann 37
- Jiří Rákosník 20

and so Rui Loja Fernandes and Volker Mehrmann were elected.

## **C2** Election of Auditors

Council elected Gregory Makrides and Rolf Jeltsch as lay auditors, and PricewaterhouseCoopers as professional auditors for the accounts for the years 2011 and 2012. The individual auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers is Pekka Kaasalainen.

# **Section D: Review of Activities**

## **D1** Publications

### **D1.1** Report of the Newsletter Editor

Vicente Muñoz presented his report, in which he

- described the changes in the editorial board and thanked all of the editors,
- introduced the changes which had been made in the Newsletter, and,
- encouraged delegates to help suggest people who would make good editors in the future.

This report was approved with acclaim.

### D1.2 EMS Publishing House and European Mathematical Foundation

The President reported on the continuing success of the EMS Publishing House. He explained that the Board which runs the publishing house includes the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a representative from ETH Zürich, while the Managing Director Thomas Hintermann attends as a guest, not a member. In this way the publishing house remained under the control of the EMS (while being legally distinct), and we could ensure that the interests of the community of mathematicians in Europe were served, such as by keeping journal prices down.

There were now twelve journals, including the extremely successful *Journal of the EMS* and the new *Spectral Theory*, and the President invited delegates to bring more new journals to be published by the EMS wherever possible.

In discussion, this report received strong support from Peter Buser of the Swiss Mathematical Society. Other delegates pointed out that it was not always easy to move the publication of journals, for various reasons.

### D1.4 Zentralblatt

The President told Council that Zentralblatt is now free to many developing countries, which is much better than the old arrangement whereby some European Societies had been paying the AMS to make MathSciNet free in certain African countries. He pointed out that in any case Zentralblatt is in many ways better than MathSciNet, and that it is still improving, thanks partly to Olaf Teschke and partly to the work of the Scientific Users Committee. The web site is new, and there are suggestions for a Zentralblatt wiki in future. It would be very good to make Zentralblatt free in all of Europe, but the President reminded Council that it is already free to individual members of the EMS.

In discussion, Gert-Martin Greuel made the point that the only bad thing about Zentralblatt is its reputation.

## D2 Report of the Publicity Officer

Vasile Berinde presented his report, describing his work on the new leaflets and posters to be available at the ICM, and on his list of mathematics departments in Europe. He also showed Council some membership statistics, which vary widely from one country to another.

In discussion, the following points were made by members of Council:

- Individual members should be more involved in the EMS.
- Advertising should be more aggressive, and would be best done through the national societies.
- Presidents of national societies should be asked to write to their own members, encouraging them to join the EMS.

- The leaflet and poster should be used much more at various conferences in Europe.
- Perhaps the EC could think of a special membership category for undergraduates, with a column in the Newsletter devoted to them.

### D3 Reports from Society Committees

These reports were discussed in parallel sessions, as described in one of the tabled papers.

**D3.1** Mario Primicerio reported on various activities of the committee. In particular, he mentioned the proposal “Mathematics and Industry” supported by the European Science Foundation. Three working groups (Training and Careers; Academia-Industry Interfaces; Opportunities and Challenges) have prepared “green papers” within their area. As part of the project, more than 100 success stories of cooperation between mathematicians and companies have been collected, and a booklet will be produced. Furthermore, a consensus conference “EMS-ESF Forward Look on Mathematics and Industry” was held in Madrid on 26–27 April 2010, as part of the official Spanish Presidency of the EU. More than 100 people participated. A final conference of the project will take in Brussels on 2 December 2010, as an official event during the Belgian Presidency of the EU. In addition, the committee has been in charge of three EMS Summer Schools, and runs the web site

<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/comm-applied.html>

**D3.2** Mireille Martin-Deschamps presented the report on behalf of the Chair.

**D3.3** Igor Krichever presented the report on behalf of the Chair, explaining that the most important work of the committee was in assisting young mathematicians from eastern Europe attend the ECM. He announced that when Jan Kratochvíl’s term of office as Chair expires at the end of 2010 Carles Casacuberta would take over. It was agreed that an important task for the committee was to think about how to broaden its work, perhaps changing its title to “Solidarity Committee”, and to bring suggestions to the Executive Committee. Ideas included identifying centres of excellence in eastern Europe, and using the EMS logo as a means of attracting donors.

#### D3.4 Education

**D3.5** In the absence of Ulf Rehmann the committee report was presented by Jiří Rákosník. The two most important issues mentioned were the wikipedia version of the Encyclopedia of Mathematics which has to be prepared in collaboration with Springer—a memorandum of collaboration in this matter was recently signed—and the EuDML project which has successfully started. Jiří Rákosník had prepared a

separate presentation about the latter which due to lack of time was given only briefly.

### **D3.6** ERCOM

**D3.8** Ehrhard Behrends explained that the main work of the committee was the construction of the web site

`mathematics-in-europe.eu`

sponsored by Munich RE. A draft version of the web site will be available at the ICM, and it will be launched at the conference in Óbidos, Portugal, in September 2010.

**D3.9** Dusanka Perisic gave an overview of the current work of this committee, which is focussing on coordination of national committees for women in mathematics, and on collaboration with European Women in Mathematics. The conference in Novi Sad was very successful, getting over 20 hours of television time. ERCOM has been very helpful in providing places to meet, and the Isaac Newton Institute has changed one of its practices in order to make it much easier for women to attend the programmes there.

### **D3.11** Ethics

## **Section E: Future Developments**

### **E1** 6th European Congress of Mathematicians 2012

Roman Srzednicki, the Chair of the Organizing Committee, gave a presentation of the preparations for the 6ECM, including the registration fees. There is a web site

`http://www.6ecm.pl/`

on which one can already pre-register. His report was accepted with acclaim [and can be found in the tabled papers].

### **E2** European Research Council

Pavel Exner gave a report on the European Research Council, saying that it was now in a more stable period, with two rounds of each of the starting and advanced grants having been completed. The third call for starting grants would appear soon. The ERC has 25 panels, and has awarded 1000 grants, so mathematics has done well to get 74, giving a total of 74.8 million euros to the subject. There are now between two and three thousand applications per call, with a success rate of about 15%, and the peer review process is solid. The ERC is to have a single Director, and faces several challenges as it attempts to evolve towards the NSF model. The continued support of the mathematical community is absolutely crucial.

### **E3** European Science Foundation

Mats Gyllenberg, Chair of PESC, reported on developments within the ESF, which will be merging with EUROHORCS. These two organisations already overlap, and ESF funding comes from the members of EUROHORCS. The headquarters will move from Strasbourg to Brussels. No formal decisions have been taken yet, but it seems likely that academies and learned societies will not be members of the new organisation, and that ESF's grant-giving function will cease. This is bad news for mathematics, which has been doing well within ESF.

## Section F: Miscellanea

### F1 Any other business

- Mario Primicerio presented to Council the information which he had been prevented by technical problems from giving during the report of the Applied Mathematics Committee.
  1. To access the questionnaire, please go to the website  
<http://esf.icm.edu.pl/?hid=71adc6c3b064161bdbfa63b3da767011>  
and enter  
username: questionnaire (written with one n!)  
password: questionnaire (written with one n!)
  2. To send comments, criticism, or suggestions to the Final Report, please download it from the website  
<http://www.ceremade.dauphine.fr/FLMI/FLMI-frames-index.html>
  3. Contribute a success story of cooperation between mathematics and companies to be incorporated in the booklet that will be presented along with the report [mathind@math.unifi.it](mailto:mathind@math.unifi.it)
- Gregory Makrides gave a presentation on the EUROMATH conferences for young people.

### F2 Next meetings

#### F2.1 Next meeting of Presidents, in 2011

Antonio Campillo López, the President of the Real Sociedad Matemática Española, invited all Presidents of national mathematical societies to hold their meeting in Spain in April or May 2011. He was thanked by acclaim.

#### F2.2 Next Council meeting, in 2012

Council was informed that this would be on the 30th of June and the 1st of July, 2012, in Krakow.

### F3 Thanks

- Rolf Jeltsch proposed a vote of thanks to Ari Laptev, Helge Holden, and Pavel Exner for all the extremely hard work they had given the EMS.

- Ari Laptev proposed a vote of thanks to Stefan Dodunekov and his team for the excellent organisation of this Council.

#### F4 20th anniversary

A “Round Table” discussion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Society was held on the afternoon of the 10th of July, with all Council delegates being invited. It consisted of some historical presentations by

- Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and Rolf Jeltsch (former Presidents),
- Ari Laptev (current President),
- Marta Sanz-Solé (President elect),
- David Salinger (former Publicity Officer),
- Tuulikki Mäkeläinen, from the Helsinki Secretariat (1990-2006), and
- Vasile Berinde.

David Salinger’s presentation *EMS history (2000–2005)* included many personal remembrances around some pictures taken of various EMS events during his term of office, while the presentation *EMS history in pictures* by Tuulikki Mäkeläinen and Vasile Berinde gave an 88 slide tour with pictures from the main locations of the EMS meetings in the period 1995–2010, extracted from the pictures archive located at

<http://vberinde.ubm.ro/?m=ems/european-mathematical-society>

with a commentary by Tuulikki Mäkeläinen. Last but not least, Rolf Jeltsch gave an interesting presentation on the Society’s history and activities during his term and afterward.