

# EMS Meeting

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## Statement of purpose

Mathematicians across Europe increasingly acknowledge the importance and the relevance of the EMS activities. However, the activities of the society need to be better known, not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world. This means not only continuing its various successful programs and publishing activities, but also expanding them so that the society has a greater impact. In fact, the EMS can play a role in Mathematics at the European level that no other body or institution can play. This expansion must be done in a sustainable fashion both financially and in terms of its organization.

I decided to accept the nomination of the Portuguese Mathematical Society, and subtract some time from what I really love to do, because I feel I can bring a different experience to the Executive Committee. Let me illustrate with three important topics to which I think the EMS should dedicate even more time:

**Mathematics Jobs across Europe:** It is clear that there is a European job market at the post-doctoral level that works quite well. There are a large number of post-doctoral programs (both at the national level and at the European level) where competition is open to PhD's from any nationality. These programs are very successful and have a good impact in research. On the other hand, the market for permanent jobs in Mathematics across Europe is quite rigid, often accessible (in practice) only to nationals. I believe this state of affairs needs to be changed dramatically in order to make mathematics in Europe much more competitive.

**Undergraduate teaching of Mathematics in Science and Technology:** Talking to many colleagues both in my country and abroad, I get a very dark picture of the undergraduate teaching of Mathematics to students of Science and Technology in the post-Bologna period. In many countries across Europe the amount of time dedicated to the study of mathematics seem to have decreased with this reform. In the long run, I believe this will have a very negative impact in Europe's Science and Technology capacities. It is now the time to collect data and study the impact of Bologna in science and technology students' knowledge of basic sciences, and in particular in Mathematics.

**European Funding of Mathematics:** In the last decade there are has been an emphasis in the funding of so called Applied Mathematics at the European level (e.g., in the various EU Framework Programme). Some very successful research networks in fundamental branches of mathematics were discontinued with this shift. It seems that the science policyholders in Europe believe that the funding of fundamental mathematics is less useful and has a smaller impact than more applied mathematical research. The EMS must fight this trend and take initiatives that demonstrate that this is a bad policy and there is an equal need to fund both applied and fundamental mathematics research.

Clearly the EMS can play a lobbying role in all these issues, promoting studies and reports, meetings, etc., that can raise awareness in the community about this problems, which eventually will bring change.

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