



European
Mathematical
Society

From the President, Ari Laptev

13 March 2010

Director-General José Manuel Silva Rodriguez

Copy to:

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn - EU commissioner for research

Professor Helga Nowotny, ERC president

Professor Dieter Imboden, President of EuroHORCs

Professor Marja Makarov, Chief Executive, ESF

Professor John Wood, Chairman of ERAB

Dear Director-General,

We have recently received a letter from the European Commission Research Directorate-General concerning our infrastructure application MATHEI, Ref.: Programme "Capacities" – Call ID "FR7-Infrastructures 2010-1" Proposal N 262248.MATHEI. To our great disappointment our proposal was not successful, and we are now very concerned about the possibility of developing Mathematical research at the right level in Europe.

The proposed infrastructure aimed to bring to a new level of coordination of the activities of 30 major research institutes in Mathematical Sciences in Europe, named by ERCOM together with the expanding community of Applied Mathematicians.

We are worried that investment in European Mathematics will become grossly inadequate to fulfill the needs of European Science and Technology. Recently not only the US, but also China, Canada and Brazil have substantially increased the funding of research in Mathematics as a whole.

Just to give a specific example, between 2000 and 2009, the funding of the NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences increased from US\$ M110 to US\$ M224. In contrast, the funding of Mathematics at the European level decreased considerably from FP6 to FP7.

We feel it is our duty to call your attention to this disconcerting state of affairs. We are of course eager to hear from you of any suggestion that might enable the European mathematical community to develop its infrastructures at the level required to be internationally competitive.

Yours sincerely,

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