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RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

The Director-General

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**Prof. Ari Laptev**  
President of the European  
Mathematical Society  
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Dear Professor Laptev,

Your letter dated 13 March 2010, following the negative outcome of the evaluation of the MATHEI proposal, has received all our attention.

I fully understand your disappointment and concern about Mathematical research, however I can reassure you that the EC recognises the relevant role that this discipline plays in support of other fields of research and of innovation. Many crucial technologies, e.g. simulation, data management and security technologies, just to mention few, depend heavily on mathematics.

Under FP7 several opportunities exist for Mathematical research, in particular through the People (Marie Curie actions) and Ideas programmes. These programmes are mainly bottom-up driven. I encourage the community of Mathematical researchers to make full use of the existing opportunities and to apply to the relevant calls until the end of FP7.

As regards the FP7 support to Mathematics Infrastructures, whereas one opportunity was offered under the 2010 call for Integrating Activities, no relevant topic is foreseen in the upcoming call (Work Programme 2011). However, this call is also open for Design Studies for new research infrastructures. A project of this type could be used to reflect on which structure a Europe-wide Mathematics Infrastructure should have to better serve its community and to help maintaining the European leadership in the field.

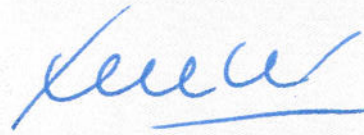
In addition, the content of the last FP7 call for Research Infrastructures, in 2012, covering in particular Integrating Activities, will be discussed in the coming months. The Mathematical community is invited to communicate its needs to its national representatives on the Capacities programme committee to make sure that these needs are adequately addressed. The budget foreseen for the last Research Infrastructures call is however very limited with respect to the needs already expressed by the various scientific communities.

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The upcoming calls for proposals will therefore continue to be very competitive. In that respect, if necessary, contacts with our services could help clarify the specific nature of the Integrating Activities and in particular the trans-national access activities.

I am confident that the coordination of efforts both at national and EU level will help Europe to stay at the forefront of Mathematical research.



José Manuel SILVA RODRIGUEZ