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Statement

This year, the European Mathematical Society is celebrating its twentieth anniversary. In this relatively short period of time, the EMS has done a remarkable job of establishing itself as the leading society for the promotion, development and dissemination of mathematics within Europe, for service to European mathematicians, and for representing mathematics at European political and scientific forums.

Among the main activities of the EMS are the publications of the EMS Publishing House, the quadrennial European Congress of Mathematics, the annual meetings with the Presidents of its member societies, and participation in various scientific boards. The standing EMS committees are involved in important projects encompassing a diverse variety of objectives. These include: aiming to increase collaboration between mathematics and other scientific and technological fields, to create networks of research infrastructure, to make society aware of the value of mathematics, to develop electronic services, to support mathematicians in the profession and to assist developing countries.

It is my belief that the EMS must continue with tenacity and energy to promote and support such important initiatives, and to maintain the high quality of these initiatives.

I also think that it is time for the EMS to increase cooperation with other learned and professional societies, both European and non-European, in order to reinforce the relationship between different mathematical communities and work on projects of common interest. New ways have to be found in order to promote the presence of the Society beyond Europe.

The EMS should increase its membership through an active policy of dissemination of its objectives, its ongoing projects, its available infrastructure and achievements. With flexible and frequent communication, we should be able to convince mathematicians, and especially the young researchers, of the benefits of working and collaborating with the Society, and to attract them to be part of its network.

Since its foundation, the EMS has made every endeavour to represent the European mathematical community at the European research institutions, and to see mathematics mentioned at the key funding agencies which support research and innovation. The EMS has received EU funds for several activities with clear benefits to the profession. However, one of our main concerns is to design efficient strategies which could eventually capitalize on the leadership of the EMS to obtain large-scale funding from European funding institutions.

The EMS is financially sound and stable and we should preserve this state. A large part of the expenses of the committees are supported by the generous contribution of member societies, mathematics departments, etc. Discussions and work are

mostly carried out by email. We should work to raise funds from private foundations and donors to be able to increase the activity of the committees, the scope of their projects, and also to reinforce the relationships between the committees. Besides the obvious good consequences, this would contribute towards increasing the visibility of the EMS in society.