

Draft Minutes of the EMS Council Meeting Utrecht, 12th and 13th July 2008

Section A: Preliminary items

A1 Welcome to delegates, and acceptance of invited guests:

The President gave a warm welcome to everybody attending the Council, and thanked the local organisers for all their work. He particularly welcomed as invited guests László Lovász, President of the International Mathematical Union, Bernd Wegner from Zentralblatt, the representatives of the Societies applying to join the EMS, and the supporting delegations from Krakow, Prague, and Vienna.

The President reported that the invitation to ERCOM to elect delegates had been sent late, and he was therefore especially pleased to welcome Joaquim Bruna and Rob Tijdeman as delegates. He asked Council formally to approve all these delegates and guests, and this was agreed.

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

A2 Housekeeping arrangements:

Stephen Huggett drew Council's attention to the programme for the Council.

A3 Acceptance of the Agenda:

The agenda was accepted, to be taken in the order given in the programme.

[These minutes will be in the order given in the agenda, not in the programme.]

A4 Minutes of the last Council meeting, in Torino:

These were approved.

A5 Scrutineers:

Maria Esteban and Mats Gyllenberg were elected as scrutineers.

Section B: Reports, Finance, and Membership

B1 Report of the President

- The President described two recent developments in his work with the European Science Foundation (ESF). (a) There is a new agreement between the EMS, ERCOM, and the ESF for 50% funding for between 5 and 6 meetings per year for 5 years. (b) ESF has asked the EMS to lead the “Forward Look” project (for infrastructure for mathematics in industry) proposed by CNRS. CNRS is ready to commit 150,000 euros to this project, and the ESF may contribute a further 150,000: its decision will be in September.
- There will be a proposal for Large Infrastructure Funding in mathematics, for which the deadline will be in 2010.
- Zentralblatt will be offered free to (a) individual members of the EMS and (b) developing countries. Springer-Verlag is funding the development of the database, in order that it can continue to compete with MathSciNet.
- Later in the meeting Pavel Exner would give a report on the European Research Council.
- The EMS has started to work closely with the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), for example on the evaluation of science in Europe.
- The meeting in Luminy of Presidents of the national mathematical societies was very successful, and the President once again thanked the Société Mathématique de France for their hospitality. It had been agreed to hold these meetings annually, and the Romanian Mathematical Society has offered to host the meeting in 2009. A possible venue for 2010 is Oslo.
- Many of the EMS committees are extremely valuable. For example, the Applied Mathematics Committee has a very good series of summer schools, the Developing Countries Committee is very active, and the Women and Mathematics Committee is working closely with European Women in Mathematics on the EWM Congress in Novi Sad in 2009.
- The President thanked the organizers of the 5ECM, noting that ten EMS prizes and the Felix Klein prize would be awarded. Later in the Council, the three excellent bids for the 6ECM would be considered.
- The EMS has a new web site, which would be presented very soon, and he briefly noted several other activities of the Executive Committee, including nominating a member of the Abel prize Committee, overseeing the EMS Lectures (given by Okounkov in 2008) and the EMS Mathematical Weekend (held in Copenhagen in 2008).
- The President drew attention to the Newsletter, which thanks to Martin Raussen had become really excellent.

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 Torino Council, which have been held in:

- Krakow, 21-22 October 2006,
- Amsterdam, 10-11 March 2007,
- St Petersburg, 8-9 June 2007, (immediately before the Euler Festival there),
- Nicosia, 27-28 October 2007,
- Copenhagen, 3 March 2008 (immediately after the Mathematical weekend there), and
- Utrecht, 11-12 July 2008.

He expressed the gratitude of the EC to the hosts of all these meetings, and noted that the EC is finding that its level of activity is increasing to the point that slightly longer meetings will be necessary.

There are reports of all the EC meetings in the Newsletter, and the Secretary asked for comment on whether these have achieved the correct balance between giving enough, but not too much, detail.

Then Helge Holden, Vice President, introduced the new EMS web site, whose url is

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

He started by thanking the University of Bremen for its support. He noted that the site was all in English, but that mirror sites in other languages would be welcome.

The procedure for submitting information to the news page, the conferences page, and the jobs page was described, and the page giving links to funding opportunities was shown.

For the first time, mathematicians have the possibility of joining the EMS directly on this web site, by a credit card transaction. In response to a question it was made clear that mathematicians would still be encouraged to join the EMS through their national mathematical societies, as always.

Delegates were encouraged to make sure that their national mathematical societies highlighted and linked to the new site.

Finally, Zentralblatt was thanked for its work in identifying email addresses of a very large number of EMS members.

This report was also approved with acclaim.

B3 Finance

B3.1 Report of the Treasurer:

After providing an overview of the financial report, the Treasurer explained some of the details and then answered some questions. The financial report was approved by the Council.

B3.2 Financial statements and auditors reports for 2006 and 2007:

The Treasurer reminded Council of the legal requirement to have these financial statements prepared and audited, and after a question these financial statements and auditors' reports were approved by the Council.

B3.3 Budget and membership fees, 2009 and 2010:

The proposed budget for the next two years was described in detail, but as it depended on the statute changes, Council agreed to defer approving the budget until after item **B5** had been discussed. Then, once the changes to the statutes and by-laws had been agreed, Council returned to item **B3.3** and approved the budget.

In particular, this approval included the new membership fees, as follows.

Unit fee for corporate members: $x = 420$ euros

Unit fee for individual members: $y = 46$ euros

Together with the statute changes, this makes the complete list of fees as shown in the following table.

Type of member	Fee in Euros
Corporate member in Class 1	420
Corporate member in Class 2	1260
Corporate member in Class 3	2100
Corporate member in Class 4	3360
Institutional member	1260
Academic institutional member	420
Individual members:	
. . . belonging to a full corporate member	23
. . . belonging to a reciprocity corporate member	34
. . . not belonging to a corporate member	46
. . . introductory fee	11

B4 Membership

B4.1 Change of class of corporate members:

Council approved the request from the Czech Mathematical Society to change from class 1 to class 2.

B4.2 Election of Full Members:

Representatives of the following societies:

- The Society of Mathematicians and Physicists of Montenegro (Svjetlana Terzic),
- The Mathematical Society of Serbia (Stevan Pilipovic),
- The Turkish Mathematical Society (Betül Tanbay), and
- The French Statistical Society (Stephane Jaffard)

gave short presentations in support of their applications to join the EMS. All four of these applications were approved by acclaim by the Council.

A letter from Academician Ludwig Faddeev, Chairman of the National Committee of Russian Mathematicians, was discussed by Council. There were conflicting views, and a clear feeling that this delicate question should not be rushed. Council agreed to consider this situation at its next meeting, and asked the Executive Committee to prepare a clear proposal by then.

B4.3 Reciprocity memberships:

Council approved the proposal for a reciprocity agreement with the Indonesian Mathematical Society.

B5 Statutes and By-Laws:

Items **B5.1** Change of Statutes and **B5.2** Change of By-Laws were taken together. The Treasurer presented the proposed changes to Council in three groups, as follows:

Electronic voting Council approved the proposed changes without amendment. The new statutes are as follows:

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.

New category 4 The Treasurer presented the case for a new class 4 of membership for Societies, arguing that although the EMS already does a great deal it could certainly do more if it had more resources, and that the stronger societies were in a much better position to provide those resources. A delegate responded that he was in favour of the proposals, but felt a little uncomfortable with the idea that the stronger societies would in effect be buying votes. A delegate from one of the stronger societies replied that this would not be the motivation for seeking to move to class 4; instead it would be a desire to support the activities of the EMS. The proposed changes were approved by Council. The new statute is as follows:

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.

The new by-law is as follows:

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.

Fees for individual members Here the Treasurer introduced an amendment to the changes which had been proposed in the Council papers, adding the phrase “not counting any career breaks” to the proposed new Rule 28 of the By-Laws, which would now read

“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.”

This amendment was approved by Council. In response to a question, it was explained that the Newsletter cost 15 euros per person. The Council then approved the proposed changes, as amended. The new by-laws are as follows:

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.

Section C: Elections

C1 Elections to Executive Committee:

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the four Executive Committee members who would be leaving at the end of 2008: Victor Buchstaber, Olga Gil-Medrano, Carlo Sbordone, and Klaus Schmidt.

Vice-President Pavel Exner left the Council, and the Secretary explained that unfortunately the Torino Council had not considered the re-election of Pavel Exner, even though he had (in Torino) only served four years on the Executive Committee and would have been eligible for re-election for another four year term. It was proposed that the Utrecht Council should rectify this omission, thus giving Pavel Exner two more years as Vice-President. In the debate, some speakers argued against what they saw a change in the rules, while others viewed the proposal as being entirely within the rules. The importance of Pavel Exner’s work for the Society was made very clear, and then a delegate proposed that Council treat this as a point of order. The President asked for a vote on whether to treat

this question as a point of order, namely that Council would in effect be correcting a mistake made at the Torino Council. There were 57 delegates in favour, a very clear majority. Then in the substantial vote on the issue, there was an even more overwhelming majority in favour of Pavel Exner remaining as Vice-President for two more years.

Of the candidates for election to the Executive Committee, only Zvi Artstein (Israel), Franco Brezzi (Italy), Igor Krichever (Russia), and Martin Raussen (Denmark) were present, and these four gave short presentations to Council. There was a short film made by Michael Röckner (Germany), and the Secretary read the statement from Rui Loja Fernandes (Portugal).

In the elections, the votes were as follows:

- Zvi Artstein 40
- Franco Brezzi 49
- Rui Loja Fernandes 23
- Igor Krichever 36
- Martin Raussen 59
- Michael Röckner 27

and so Zvi Artstein (Israel), Franco Brezzi (Italy), Igor Krichever (Russia), and Martin Raussen (Denmark) were elected.

C2 Election of Auditors:

Council re-elected Kasimierz Goebel and Gregory Makrides as auditors, and Pekka Kaasalainen, CPA, and Johan Weckman, CPA, as Deputy, were elected as professional auditors for the accounts for the years 2009 and 2010.

Section D: Review of Activities

D1 Publications

D1.1 Report of the Newsletter Editor:

Martin Raussen presented a brief report, in which he

- thanked the editors of the Newsletter,
- introduced and recommended his successor Vicente Muñoz, who had sent his apologies for not being able to be present,
- encouraged delegates to help find good review articles, and to raise the number of subscriptions to the Newsletter.

This report was approved with acclaim.

D1.2 EMS Publishing House and European Mathematical Foundation:

Martin Raussen presented a brief report on behalf of Thomas Hintermann, who was unable to be present. He referred to the impressive success of JEMS, the new journals, and the many excellent books, and he asked in particular for people to be aware that JEMS deserves a far higher number of subscriptions.

D1.3 JEMS:

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Haim Brezis, editor of JEMS, for his work in bringing the quality of the journal to such a high level, and he too encouraged more subscriptions.

D1.4 Zentralblatt:

Bernd Wegner gave a short report on Zentralblatt, which is in the tabled papers. Answering questions, he said that there would be an open forum section of the web site, and that “selected reviews” really meant second reviews of particular articles.

D2 Report of the Publicity Officer:

Martin Raussen presented a brief report (which is in the tabled papers) on behalf of Vasile Berinde, who was unable to be present. The report was accepted with acclaim.

D3 Reports from Society Committees

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

D3.1 Mario Primicerio reported on the work of the **Applied Mathematics Committee**, and drew attention to the new web site

www.ceremade.dauphine.fr/EMS-frames/EMS-frames-index.html established and maintained by Maria Esteban, who was thanked for her work. Here one can find valuable information for applied mathematicians. The Committee usually communicates via email, but intends to meet at Frankfurt Airport on September 24, 2008. Primicerio noted that the terms of office of all members of the Committee expire at the end of 2009.

Helge Holden reported on the rules regarding the use of the EMS logo on conference material: the EMS only allows the use of its logo if the EMS has some influence on the scientific programme of the event. In particular, the EMS should be allowed to appoint at least one member to the scientific committee.

D3.2 Tsou Sheung Tsun reported on the activities of the **Developing Countries Committee**.

- The CDC website
<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/tsou/ems>
is finally up and running.

- The book donation scheme is working well, with financial support from various sources.
- The Committee is preparing a list of developing countries which will benefit from the free access to Zentralblatt.
- The Committee is launching a twinning scheme, whereby a department in the developed world twins with a department in the developing world and tries to help it in various ways. For this purpose, the committee offers, during an initial period, a kind of “seed grant” of up to 500 euros, to any department or institution in the developed world which wishes to participate in such a twinning scheme and is willing to provide at least the same amount in support. As of now, around 20 such twinning schemes have already been established.

D3.3 Jan Kratochvil reported on the activities of the **Committee for Eastern Europe** since 2006. The Committee awards travel grants to Eastern European mathematicians to travel to conferences and research visits in West or Central Europe, and also to conference organizers to support the participation of Eastern European mathematicians. In discussion it was clear that at the moment this Committee was still very necessary, but one might hope that in the fairly near future we might be able to re-consider. One possibility would be to merge it with the CDC and re-name it the “Solidarity Committee”.

D3.4 Mina Teicher reported on the activities of the **Education Committee** over the last four years. She described the Committee’s composition and highlighted her high profile political activities such as her plea to Commissioner Potočnik for more support to mathematics education, and her manifesto against gender-insensitive remarks of Larry Summers. In the discussion the importance of mathematics education was supported by several delegates.

D3.5 Pavel Exner reported on the activity over the last two years of the **Electronic Publishing Committee**. He described changes in the Electronic Publishing Library over that period. Thierry Bouche described the EU-DML project submitted recently within the eContentsPlus programme. The usefulness of the activity was generally supported. The Slovenian delegate Tomaz Pisanski proposed that the new EMS web page features links to all the journals published by national societies.

D3.6 Ari Laptev reported on the recently signed agreement between the ESF, the EMS and **ERCOM**, for a series of conferences on mathematics within the ESF Scientific Conferences Scheme. The contract is for five years and for up to six conferences each year. Conferences will take place in ERCOM centres and the ESF contribution will be up to 50% of the total budget. The decision to work towards such an agreement was made in the March 2008 meeting of ERCOM held

in Coimbra, where a steering committee was appointed with Marta Sanz-Solé as convener.

The next call of the FP7 Programme for large infrastructures is scheduled for 2010. In the last ERCOM meeting it was agreed to explore this possibility well in advance.

D3.8 Robin Wilson summarized his written report on the **Raising Public Awareness Committee**, stressing the urgent need for some new members and noting that Ehrhard Behrens is taking over as chair at the end of 2008.

He mentioned that, although individual members of the Committee have been very active in various RPA activities over the past two years, as can be seen in the report, there has been little activity by the Committee as a whole in organising EMS events.

Some Council members expressed disappointment that we had not organised an RPA activity at the 5ECM. It was agreed that the Committee should certainly organise something for the 6ECM.

RPA is very dependent on the language, and a good task for the Committee will be to maintain a web site linked to the new EMS site and to RPA activities in the different European countries.

Finally, Robin Wilson related the suggestion by the Executive Committee to revive the idea of the EMS Diderot Mathematical Fora, five of which took place from 1992 to 2001. Now that the technology has developed further, it may be worth reviving, and could take on a variety of different formats.

D3.9 The session on the **Women and Mathematics Committee** was chaired by Tsou Sheung Tsun, as Sylvie Paycha was in Amsterdam organizing a series of lectures by women mathematicians.

After a brief account of the activities of the Committee (as described in Sylvie Paycha's report in the Council papers) the discussion focussed on the fact that the number of women speakers in mathematical conferences is disproportionately low. Mathematical conferences and special sessions advertised as being exclusively for women speakers (like the meeting organized by Sylvie Paycha on that day) are often regarded as second rate scientifically and attract only small audiences.

The main reason given by organizers for including few women speakers is that they are simply not aware of the names of leading women mathematicians in the various subject areas.

In order to redress this situation it was proposed to establish a database of women mathematicians which could be consulted by organizers when putting together the list of invited speakers at mathematical conferences. This list should be maintained by the Committee and be available on the EMS web site.

The meeting supported this suggestion strongly.

D4 Scientific Meetings:

The President proposed that this item (comprising **D4.1** Summer Schools, **D4.2** EMS Lectures, and **D4.3** Mathematical Weekends) be omitted, as it had been covered in his report to the parallel session on the Meetings Committee.

Section E: Future Developments

E1 6ECM 2012

E1.1 Report by the Executive Committee:

The President explained that there had been a site visit by a small group from the Executive Committee, and that Pavel Exner and Klaus Schmidt had taken no part in any of the discussions. The report of the Executive Committee was in the papers.

E1.2 Presentations by Krakow, Prague, and Vienna:

All three bidders made presentations and answered questions, after which the President thanked them all very much for their work, noting that they were all excellent and regretting that two of them had to be unsuccessful. Council applauded this view.

E1.3 Voting

Before the voting, there was a second discussion of the three bids. The President noted that it was not possible to prepare a table comparing the budgets of the three bids, but that the details of the budget would be the subject of negotiation between the successful bidder and the Executive Committee. He remarked that aside from the budget, there were other factors of importance. This point was supported by a delegate, who said how impressive the three bids were, and drew attention to the mathematical communities behind each bid. Another delegate asked that the programme should include really good survey talks.

The President explained that each delegate should mark one of the three boxes on the ballot paper, and that the bid with the most votes would win. Council moved to the vote, which was as follows:

- Krakow 30
- Prague 23
- Vienna 11

Krakow was duly chosen, and Andrzej Pelczar immediately thanked the other two bidders for the excellent, decent, and strong competition, inviting everybody to the 6ECM.

E2 ERC:

Pavel Exner gave a report on the European Research Council, starting with the good news. There was an overwhelming response to the call, in

April 2007, for “Starting grants”, with more than nine thousand applications. These grants are now being awarded, about 300 of them, of which there were 23 mathematical projects. Thanks are due to the mathematics panel and, in particular, to Jean-Pierre Bourguignon as its chair for all his work in this process. There was a slightly higher hurdle in the application process for the “Advanced grants”, for which the deadline was February 2008, but there were still more than two thousand applications. Mathematics had 135, the highest number of all twenty five panels, and the evaluation work, this time headed by Enrique Zuazua, is almost complete.

The bad news is that the creation of the executive agency needed to manage future calls is going very slowly, and this threatens the future of the whole process. Such an agency is nevertheless crucial if, as planned, both the starting and advanced grants are to run simultaneously next year. Council members were asked for their support and to spread the news in their communities.

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon responded by thanking Pavel Exner for his work with the ERC, pointing out that we should all encourage good administrators to apply for work in the new agency, and expressing the hope that the second round will be as good in spite of the many excellent applications disappointed in the first round.

Pavel Exner noted that some national funding agencies have decided to support some of these brilliant but unsuccessful applicants.

E3 and E4 ESF and PESC:

The President gave a short report, focussing on the European Science Foundation’s Standing Committee for Physical and Engineering Sciences, on which he is an observer. Both the Chief Executive and the Chair (Michel Mareschal) of PESC are very friendly towards mathematics, but there will be a new Chair on 1/1/2009.

Section F: Miscellanea

F1 Any other business:

- The Secretary promised that a complete list of people attending Council would be available on the Council web page as soon as possible.
- Council delegates requested a short further discussion of Zentralblatt. The question was raised whether Council would support the idea of changing the financial model in order to make access to Zentralblatt completely free, noting that more funding would be needed, particularly from the governmental funding agencies of European states. The President also noted that such a change might involve a modification of the name Zentralblatt.

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon argued that a better way to phrase these points would be that Council should approve the exploration of a completely new economic model for Zentralblatt, subject to a strict auditing procedure designed to ensure that it competes at the highest level.

Council agreed with this proposal.

Luc Lemaire pointed out that more generally, our underlying research infrastructure is eroding, in disarray, or both. Funding agencies really need to understand that longer-term support is needed. Zentralblatt is a good example of an important part of our infrastructure which cannot be supported by “initiative” funding.

- Tomaz Pisanski, from Slovenia, reported his concern that after the Bologna report mathematics had been pushed out of technical schools in Slovenia, or was being taught by non-mathematicians. He also noted that the peer review system was not working, with some examples of complete nonsense being published as mathematics.
- Jan Kratochvil informed Council that World Scientific had offered to provide some support to mathematicians in Eastern Europe, and he distributed details.

F2 Next Council meeting, in 2010:

The President reminded members that the next Council would be held in 2010, and he closed by thanking the Royal Dutch Mathematical Society, and especially Herman te Riele, for their wonderful hospitality and support.