

# Minutes of the EMS Council Meeting in Berlin, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2016

## Section A: Preliminaries

1. The President welcomed the delegates of the societies and gave a special welcome to the guests of the society at the council. He mentioned that there were 82 delegates and 17 guests present at the Council meeting.
2. The President introduced Elvira Hyvönen from the EMS Office in Helsinki who was ready to help delegates with any enquiries.
3. The agenda was agreed.
4. The minutes of the last Council Meeting in Donostia/San Sebastián were approved.
5. The President reported that there were elections for two new Vice-Presidents and for five new Members-at-large in the Executive Committee. The EC proposed two candidates for Vice-President, and the President reported that there were thirteen candidates nominated for five vacancies in the Executive Committee for Member-at-large. The President then asked for additional nominations of candidates for election to the Executive Committee from the floor. There were none. Given the complexity of the voting, the President asked Council to approve an electronic voting scheme according to the procedure outlined on the Council website. The voting procedure was approved. Marie-Francoise Roy and Zdeněk Strakoš were then elected Scrutineers for the elections of the EC members. The President reported that there will be also elections for the site of the next ECM in 2020. The President asked Council to approve an individual vote by ballot. The voting procedure was approved. Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel and Krzysztof Ciesielski were then elected Scrutineers for the elections of the site of the next ECM.

## Section B: Reports, Finance, and Membership

1. The President presented a short summary of his report in the Council papers.
2. The Secretary gave a short report on the meetings of the Executive Committee since the last Council, and referred to the reports in the Council papers that have also appeared in the EMS Newsletter.
3. Finance
  - 3.1. The Treasurer presented a summary of his report in the Council papers.
  - 3.2. He then presented the financial statements and auditor reports for 2014 and 2015, and continued with the budget for 2017 and 2018. He informed the Council that because of the low interest rates, half of the financial resources are now in shares with a medium risk profile.
  - 3.3. Considering the healthy financial situation of the society and the support of the EMS Publishing House providing the *EMS Newsletter* and the *EMS Mathematical Surveys* at no cost to the society, the Treasurer proposed to increase the budget for scientific activities, and not to increase the membership fees. The Council approved the budget for 2017 and 2018.

- 3.4. Finally, Council appointed Nicola Bellomo and Stanisław Janeczko as lay auditors, and PricewaterhouseCoopers as the professional auditors, for the years 2017 and 2018.
4. Membership
  - 4.1. The Treasurer presented and explained the membership statistics presented in the Council papers. In the tabled papers lists are provided of all new individual members grouped by country and by society. There are now 2721 individual members of the EMS.
  - 4.2. After a presentation by Tigran Harutunyan, President of the Armenian Mathematical Union (AMU), Council approved by acclaim the application of the AMU to become a full member of the EMS. The reciprocity membership agreement with the Mathematical Society of Japan was also approved by acclaim by Council.
  - 4.3. No applications were received for waiving of fees of corporate members.
  - 4.4. The list of four new institutional members was noted.
5. Statutes and By-laws
  - 5.1. The President introduced the proposed changes to the Rule 8, Rule 23, and Rule 30 of the By-Laws according to the proposal in the Council papers. The Council approved all three proposed changes.
  - 5.2. The Treasurer [presented](#) a formula due to Euler to calculate the membership fee for a life time membership to the society. After a discussion, it was proposed that the Executive Committee will investigate the optimal parameters for a lifelong membership that would be beneficial to the members of the society but not harm the income of the society from membership fees too much. It was agreed that the EC will come in time with a concrete proposal to Council that will be discussed at the next Council.
6. The Publicity Officer gave a [presentation](#) of his work.

## Section C: Elections to Executive Council

1. Volker Mehrmann and Armen Sergeev, the candidates for election as Vice-President, each gave a short presentation, and then they left the room. For each candidate, the President asked Council whether a formal ballot was required. In each case there was no such request, and both candidates were elected by a show of hands. In case of Volker Mehrmann two delegates abstained, and in case of Armen Sergeev three delegates abstained. Volker Mehrmann was elected Vice-President for the term 2017-2018 and Armen Sergeev was elected Vice-President for the term 2017-2020.
2. The President then continued with the election of the Members-at-large of the Executive Committee, each candidate gave a short presentation, and then the delegates voted in two rounds. The candidates Nicola Fusco, Stefan Jackowski, Vicente Muñoz, Beatrice Pelloni, and Betül Tanbay were elected members of the Executive Committee for the term 2017-2020. The results of the votes are in the table below.

| Candidate            | Number of Votes Round 1 | Number of Votes Round 2 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ivan Fesenko         | 4                       | -                       |
| Alice Fialowski      | 22                      | -                       |
| Nicola Fusco         | 34                      | 37                      |
| Tinne Hoff Kjeldsen  | 32                      | 29                      |
| Stefan Jackowski     | 40                      | 49                      |
| Martin Mathieu       | 3                       | -                       |
| Vicente Muñoz        | 48                      | -                       |
| Hans Munthe-Kaas     | 28                      | 22                      |
| Beatrice Pelloni     | 46                      | -                       |
| János Pintz          | 23                      | -                       |
| Jacob Rubenstein     | 27                      | -                       |
| Elisabeth Strickland | 20                      | -                       |
| Betül Tanbay         | 56                      | -                       |

#### Section D: European Congresses of Mathematics

1. Volker Mehrmann presented a report on the preparations of 7ECM.
2. The President introduced the proposed sites of the 8<sup>th</sup> ECM Portorož (Slovenia) and Seville (Spain), each bid is solid and agreed to sign the Memorandum of understanding in order to organize the next ECM. Each bid gave a presentation followed by a discussion. In the subsequent vote the Seville bid received 33 votes and the Portorož bid received 45 votes. As a result, the Portorož bid was elected as the site of the 8<sup>th</sup> ECM during 5-11 July of 2020.

#### Section E: EMS Committees

1. On behalf of the Chair of the Applied Mathematics Committee, Volker Mehrmann gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He called attention for the fact that 2018 will be the year of Mathematical Biology with many activities. The successful lobbying for Mathematics within the Horizon 2020 program was welcomed by the Council. See also H3.
2. On behalf of the Chair of the Committee for Developing Countries, Leif Abrahamsson gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. The funding of the Simons Foundation for Africa was welcomed by the Council. It will provide a significant source of funding to increase the interaction between Africa and Europe.
3. Gunther Törner, the Chair of the Education Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee.
4. Jiří Rákosník, the Chair of the Electronic Publishing Committee gave a [presentation](#) on the work of the committee, and in particular stressed the recent developments regarding EuDML and GDML. See also H1.

5. On behalf of the Chair of ERCOM, Patrick Foulon went over the ERCOM report in the Council papers. Council regretted that Ari Laptev, the former President of the EMS and the current Chair of ERCOM, could not be present and requested the President to write to him a letter on behalf of the Council wishing him good health.
6. Aldofo Quirós, the Chair of the Ethics Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He stressed the importance of the Code of Practice and thanked the Publicity Officer for the attractive flyer about the work of the Ethics Committee that will be distributed about all participants of 7ECM.
7. Carles Casacuberta, the Chair of the European Solidarity Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He noted that the number of applications for support increased in recent years, and all request for support have to use now an application form on the website of the committee.
8. Nils Dencker, the Chair of the Meetings Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee.
9. The President informed the Council that Bernard Teissier, the Chair of the Publication Committee recently resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. Therefore, there is no report and no presentation. He then recalled the paper on 'open access' produced by the committee that have been used at many places as input for discussions. The President also used the opportunity to encourage delegates to nominate possible candidates for EMS Committees. As there are quite a few committee members towards their second and final term so renewals are unavoidable.
10. Roberto Natalini, the Chair of the RPA Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He asked attention for the new look of the [Mathematics in Europe](#) website, and encouraged national societies to join. He also solicited for topics for a new Diderot Mathematica Forum after this year successful edition on Biomedical Applications.
11. Beatrice Pelloni, the Chair of the Women in Mathematics Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. She stressed the importance of diversity, in particular, at meetings sponsored by the EMS and on material published on the EMS website, and expressed the commitment to redress this imbalance.

## Section F: Mathematics in Europe

1. The President reported on the latest developments regarding Horizon 2020, and mentioned the open EU consultation on Mathematics that was held in the Spring of 2016. The outcome of the consultation will be discussed in a meeting coming September. He stressed the importance of participating in such initiatives as a community illustrated by the recent successes of EU-MATH-IN, and encouraged everybody to actively participate in these consultations. See also H3.
2. The President informed the Council that unfortunately Jean-Pierre Bourguignon could not be present at Council to present his report, and referred the Council to the ERC report. He continued briefly mentioning the very special position the ERC has as an 'alien body' within the organization of the European Commission, and recalled that the establishment of the ERC was the result of successful lobbying of Initiative Science Europe (ISE) of which the EMS is a member. The midterm evaluation of Horizon 2020 will come and it is important that the ERC portfolio will grow and become more stable in the years to come.

3. The President informed the Council that the EMS supports the ICM bid from Paris to organize ICM 2022. If a bid from Saint Petersburg will also materialize then EMS will support this bid as well. The sole intention of the EMS is to bring ICM back to Europe in 2022.

## Section G: Publication Activities

1. The President reported that due to the transition in Editor-in-Chief of the EMS Newsletter, it was not feasible to have a report at the Council. The President thanked all Editors of the EMS Newsletter for their work and proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Editor-in-Chief Lucia Di Vizio for her excellent work. During her tenure, the newsletter did grow considerably as well in number of pages as in interesting content. He then welcomed the incoming Editor-in-Chief Valentin Zagrebnoy and on behalf of the Council wished him success.
2. The President informed the Council that the Managing Director of the Publishing House could not be present at Council to present his report prepared for Council. In addition to the written report, the President mentioned that the newly appointed Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the EMS-PH started functioning rather well, and that the board already handling a number of project proposals to launch a new journal for evaluation.
3. The report of Klaus Hulek about Zentralblatt was received. The President announced that as of April 1, 2016, Klaus Hulek replaced Gert-Martin Greuel as Editor-in-Chief of Zentralblatt. It was planned that Gert-Martin Greuel would present the report at Council but unforeseen circumstances made it impossible for him to be present at Council. The President proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Editor-in-Chief Gert-Martin Greuel for his excellent work. During his tenure, Zentralblatt improved significantly and is now a serious competitor of the other available reference databases for mathematics.

## Section H: Projects

1. Jiří Rákosník gave a [presentation](#) on the EuDML project and also mentioned that a Scientific Advisory Board of EuDML with Frédéric Hélein as Chair was installed earlier this year.
2. The EoM wiki was discussed in the report of the Electronic Publishing Committee. In order to get more EMS members involved with the Encyclopedia of Mathematics, Ulf Rehmann wrote an item in the last issue of the *EMS Newsletter*.
3. Maria Esteban gave a [presentation](#) on EU-MATHS-IN. After an initial phase, the national networks that form EU-MATHS-IN are cooperating quite actively. A proposal for infrastructure was granted and the proposal for starting a mathematics community infrastructure was under review.
4. In this additional point, Martin Raussen gave a [presentation](#) about the collaboration between EMS and MathHire to provide a job portal.

## Section I: Future Meetings

1. The President announced that the Portuguese Mathematical Society will host the 2017 Presidents' Meeting in Lisbon, April 1-2, 2017.
2. The Council in 2020 will be held in Bled, Slovenia prior to 8ECM on July 3-4, 2020. The date and venue of the 2018 Council is still open, and the delegates will be informed in due time.

## Closing

The President thanked the local organization committee of 7ECM and the Humboldt University for hosting the Council, and in particular Volker Mehrmann for his excellent work for Council and 7ECM. He also thanked the delegates for their participation and expressed the hope that our discussions during Council and the decisions taken will bring the society forward.