

Minutes of the EMS Council Meeting in Prague, 23rd and 24th of June 2018

Section A: Preliminaries

0. The President opened the meeting and asked the delegates for a few moments of silence to honor the memory of the colleagues who left us since the last Council.
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 78 delegates and 11 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 Berlin were approved.
5. The President reported that there were elections for the President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and for one new Member-at-large in the Executive Committee. Council elected Josef Málek and Caroline Series as Scrutineers for the elections of the EC members and for the other votes during the Council.

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 2016 and 2017 and continued with the budget for 2019 and 2020.
 - 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 sound financial situation led to a discussion about other initiatives the EMS could support financially, for example, activity groups on special topics. The Treasurer concluded the discussion by remarking that suggestions for financial support of new initiatives should be sent to the EMS Office to be discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee. The Council approved the budget for 2019 and 2020.
 - 3.4. Finally, Council appointed Nicola Bellomo and Stanisław Janeczko as lay auditors, and PricewaterhouseCoopers as the professional auditors, for the years 2019 and 2020.
4. Membership

- 4.1. The President 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 2707 individual members of the EMS.
 - 4.2. After a [presentation](#) by Tomaž Pisanski, President of the Slovenian Discrete and Applied Mathematics Society (SDAMS), Council approved by acclaim the application of the SDAMS to become a full member of the EMS. The cooperation agreements with the Chinese Mathematical Society and the Australian Mathematical Societies were 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 and one new associate member was noted.
 - 4.5. Although it is the policy of the EMS to include societies rather than to expel them, there are two societies that almost never have paid their dues and also do not respond to repeated letters from the President. The Council approved the proposal to expel the Malta Mathematical Society and the Macedonian Mathematical Society by terminating their membership to the EMS.
5. Statutes and By-laws
- 5.1. The President presented the proposal for life-time membership. The proposal led to a discussion in Council about possible alternative proposals, but in conclusion it was agreed that the proposal on the table was the best possible proposal in line with the discussion at the last Council meeting in Berlin. The Council approved the proposal for life-time membership.
 - 5.2. The President introduced the proposed changes to the Rule 4 and the addition of new Rules 5 and 31 of the By-Laws according to the proposal in the Council papers. The Council approved all three proposed changes with the new rules formulated as follows:

RULE 4: A member of age w with w greater than sixty may apply for life-time membership.

RULE 5: Members newly elected or in a new category shall be informed of their election and receive the relevant documents.

RULE 31: Lifetime members shall pay the once-and-for-all fee of $[(77-4[w/5])y/5]$.

The other rules in the By-laws were accordingly renumbered.
6. The Publicity Officer gave a [presentation](#) of his work.

Section C: Elections to Executive Council

Volker Mehrmann, Betül Tanbay, Mats Gyllenberg, and Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel, the nominate candidates for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary for the term 2019-2022, gave brief presentations followed by short discussions, and then one by one left the room. The delegates voted electronically and all four candidates were elected with an overwhelming majority. The candidates returned and gladly accepted the results of the vote.

The President then continued with the election of the Member-at-large of the Executive Committee, both candidates Jorge Buesco and Martin Mathieu gave brief presentations followed by

short discussion, and then left the room. The delegates voted electronically and elected Jorge Buesco for the term 2019-2022 with 57 votes.

Section D: European Congresses of Mathematics

1. Klavdija Kutnar [presented](#) a report on the preparations of the 8th ECM in Portorož, Slovenia, 5-11 July of 2020.

Section E: EMS Committees

1. Stéphane Cordier, the Chair of the Applied Mathematics Committee, gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He called attention to the fact that this year is the year of Mathematical Biology with many ongoing activities.
2. On behalf of the Chair of the Committee for Developing Countries, Leif Abrahamsson went over the CDC report in the Council papers. The funding of the Simons Foundation for Africa is going well, but it is a point of attention to receive sufficiently many high-level applications.
3. Jürg Kramer, the Chair of the Education Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee.
4. Ari Laptev, the Chair of ERCOM, gave a [presentation](#) on the work of the committee.
5. Jiří Rákosník, the Chair of the Ethics Committee gave a [presentation](#) of the work of the committee. He informed Council that the Ethics Committee continuously updates the Comments for the Code of Practice (CoP) and invited all delegates to prepare comments and feedback on the CoP. He also expressed the hope that more member societies and institutions will endorse the CoP.
6. On behalf of the Chair of the European Solidarity Committee, Alice Fialowski went over the report in the Council papers. She expressed some worries about the functioning of the committee and the lack of contact between the Chair and the members of the committee. She noted that the number of applications for support increased last year.
7. On behalf of the Chair of the Meetings Committee, Martin Mathieu went over the report in the Council papers. He suggested that the EMS Newsletter could publish success stories of scientific event supported by the EMS and might also publish a report from the Meetings Committee on the projects that have received funded from the EMS.
8. The President informed the Council that the Electronic Publishing and the Publication Committees have merged into a new Publications and Electronic Dissemination Committee (PED) and Thierry Bouche, the Chair of PED, gave a [presentation](#) on the work of the new committee.
9. Silvia Benvenuti, the Vice Chair of the RPA Committee, gave a [presentation](#) on the work of the committee. She asked attention for the [Mathematics in Europe](#) website and encouraged national societies to join by making a link from the homepage of the national society to the Mathematics in Europe website. She asked the delegates for help with identifying RPA contact persons at the national societies.
10. On behalf of the Chair of the Women in Mathematics Committee (WiM), Beatrice Pelloni went over the report in the Council papers. She stressed the importance of diversity, in

particular, at meetings sponsored by the EMS and in Editorial Boards of journals published by the EMS and expressed the commitment WIM to redress this imbalance.

After the presentations, the President opened the discussion and Council briefly discussed the general work of the EMS Committees. In conclusion, the President stressed the importance of the standing committee for the proper functioning of the EMS and on behalf of Council thanked all Chairs and committee members for their work for the society. The President also used the opportunity to encourage delegates to nominate possible candidates for EMS Committees. Finally, the Publicity Officer encouraged all delegates to use the E-news and the other communication channels to inform the EMS about interesting news from the national societies.

Section F: Mathematics in Europe

1. The President briefly reported on the latest developments regarding Horizon Europe, the next framework programme to follow after Horizon 2020.
2. On behalf of the Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the ERC, Pavel Exner gave a [presentation](#) on the achievements and the perspectives the European Research Council.

Section G: Publication Activities

1. Valentin Zagrebnov the Editor-in-Chief of the EMS Newsletter, went over the report in the Council papers. He invited the delegates to come forward with suggestions for new members of the Editorial Board of the EMS Newsletter and expressed the hope that all members of the EMS read the newsletter and will not hesitate to contact him with suggestions and ideas to improve the quality of the newsletter even further. The President thanked the Editor-in-Chief of the EMS Newsletter for his excellent work and used the opportunity to also thank the editor of the EMS e-News Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel for her excellent work. He proposed a vote of thanks to both of them.
2. The President informed the Council that the Managing Director of the Publishing House could not be present at Council to go over his written report in the Council papers. Since there were no further questions, the President summarized that the EMS Publishing House is in very good shape. He briefly updated the Council on the future of the EMS Publishing House after the retirement of the present Managing Director.
11. On behalf of Klaus Hulek, Editor-in-Chief of Zentralblatt , Olaf Teschke gave a [presentation](#) on zbMATH. The President concluded the discussion with the remark that Zentralblatt improved significantly and is now a serious competitor of other available reference databases for mathematics. He also reminded the delegates that zbMATH is available free of charge for members of the European Mathematical Society.

Section H: Projects

1. Jiří Rákosník gave a [presentation](#) on the EuDML project and announced that Vittorio Coti Zelati had replaced him as EMS representative in the Executive Board of EuDML.

2. The President informed the Council that Ulf Rehmann wrote him that Springer can no longer support the hosting and maintenance of the Encyclopedia of Mathematics (EoM) wiki financially. Since the Executive Committee believes that the EoM wiki is a valuable addition to the information on mathematics available on the web, it was agreed that the EMS will take responsibility to continue the hosting of the EoM wiki. The Council agreed with this discussion and the President concluded with a reference to the article by Ulf Rehmann in the EMS Newsletter on EoM two years ago.
3. Volker Mehrmann gave a [presentation](#) on EU-MATHS-IN and asked special attention for the [vision paper](#) of EU-MATH-IN.

Section I: Future Meetings

12. The President announced that the 2019 Presidents' Meeting will be held in Berlin and further details will follow.
13. The Council in 2020 will be held prior to 8ECM in Hotel Kompas, Bled, Slovenia on July 4-5, 2020.

Closing

The President thanked the Czech Academy of Science, the Czech Mathematical Society, the Czech Technical University, and in particular Jiří Rákosník for hosting the Council. 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.