

# Report on the Meeting of Presidents of Mathematical Societies, in Berlin

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*Please refer to the separate list for attendance.  
Presentations marked like this\* are available on the web site  
[EMS Meeting of Presidents 2019 Berlin](#)*

## Section A: Preliminaries

The President of the European Mathematical Society, and Chair of the meeting, Volker Mehrmann, welcomed all participants and cordially thanked the organizers for the invitation to the Technical University of Berlin. A special welcome and thanks were given to Heike Faßbender, President of GAMM, and Friedrich Götze, President of the German Mathematical Society. After his welcome the Chair proceeded to explain the agenda.

## Section B: Introductions

1. Everybody introduced themselves in a tour de table, saying which Society they represented at the meeting.
2. Friedrich Götze welcomed the Presidents of the EMS member societies to Berlin and presented\* a report on the German Mathematical Society. Heike Faßbender presented\* a report on GAMM.

## Section C: The European Mathematical Society

1. The Chair started his report by expressing that mutual respect will be a key point in his Presidency and then continued with a report on his activities since the start of his tenure as President which began on January 1, 2019. He asked special attention for the important developments concerning Plan S and the statement that the EMS prepared as part of the consultation of the European Committee on Plan S. The EMS will follow these developments very carefully since they might change the landscape for publishing scientific papers significantly. He also asked attention for the FAIRMat proposal on mathematical data infrastructure, another important development for mathematics. He continued his report by informing the Presidents about the move of the EMS Publishing House to Berlin and the establishment of a limited organization owned by EMS under German Law (as of March 22, 2019).

2. The Chair reminded that the calls for nominations of EMS Prizes is open and encourages the Presidents to make nominations. The call for bids to organize ECM2024 is now closed and bids were received from Lisbon and Seville.
3. The Chair reported on the wide range of scientific activities of the Society, and in particular encouraged member societies to prepare proposals for scientific activities, such as Joint Mathematical Weekends and Summer Schools. See the [call for proposals](#). The Chair also recalled the collaboration agreements with the mathematical societies of Australia, China and Japan, and informed the Presidents about the idea to organize a joint Euro-Pacific meeting and a joint Euro-India meeting, similar in spirit to the joint meetings with AMS organized by national societies in the past.
4. The Chair started by reminding the Presidents that the Standing Committees are the working body of the EMS. The Chair informed the Presidents of the member societies about the intention of the Executive Committee to bring in 2020 a proposal to Council to establish a special standing committee for young mathematicians. What would the remit be of such a committee and who should we nominate to become committee members of this new committee? Please send your ideas and suggestions to the President of the EMS. Finally, the President recalled the request from the Chair of the Raising Public Awareness committee (RPA) for help. Could the Presidents of the national member societies that have not done this already identify a contact person for public awareness activities and send this information to Roberto Natalini the Chair of RPA. **Action All**
5. The Chair reported on the latest developments regarding Horizon 2020 and ERC.

#### Section D: Presentations

1. Elena Resmerita presented\* a report on the European Women in Mathematics.
2. Klavdija Kutnar presented\* an update on the on the progress of the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> ECM to be held in Portorož, Slovenia, from July 5 till July 11, 2020.
3. Lucian Beznea presented\* a report on the ninth Congress of Romanian Mathematicians.
4. Hrvoje Kraljević presented\* a report on the work of the Croatian Mathematical Society.
5. Ivan Fesenko presented\* a report on the ICM 2022 in St. Petersburg.
6. Ivan Fesenko presented\* a report on the advancement of young mathematicians research and a proposal for a new type of mathematical research institute.
7. Tomás Chacón presented\* a report on the ICIAM 2019 in Valencia, Spain.
8. Stéphane Seuret presented\* a report on news from the Société Mathématique de France
9. Thierry Horsin presented\* a report on the work of Société de Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles (SMAI).

## Section E: Discussion

After a short introduction by the Chair and the presentation by Elena Resmerita, the Presidents had an informal discussion about the improvement of gender balance within the EMS.

Several items to improve the gender balance were discussed and what should be done at a national level and what should be done at a European level, and how can we learn from each other and strengthen each other.

At the European level the EMS could in collaboration with EWM collect data on female/male ratio in Mathematics Departments and in committees. The data can be used to facilitate and encourage the appointments of female mathematicians in Mathematics Departments, in committees and in editorial boards.

The EMS could also serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices. Political lobbying is important at both the national and the European level. We should use EMS E-news and all other appropriate communication channels to exchange news and information between the national societies and the EMS.

The Chair urged the Presidents of the National Societies to become more active and more diverse with their nominations for EMS Prizes, for distinguished and invited speakers at major convergences, and to consider not only candidates from their own country but also from other European countries in order to structurally obtain richer lists of nominees.

The President continued the discussion by asking the Presidents for new ideas how to involve more young mathematicians in our societies. The EMS is planning to bring a proposal for a new Standing Committee for Young Mathematicians and to have activity groups (EMS junior (fellows)) within the EMS to the Council in 2020.

The Presidents discussed various national programs and the specific program in place at GAMM consisting of GAMM juniors. Every year ten new GAMM juniors are elected for four years (forty in total) and they form a committee and are represented in all GAMM committees. They are given freedom to organize things differently at GAMM and are given financial support to organize special meetings. In the ensuing discussion the need to involve more young mathematicians was clearly shared but there was also concern that involving mathematicians too early in their career with organizational tasks might harm the scientific career and the chances to obtain tenure for young mathematicians.

The Chair closed the discussion with a strong appeal to work together and to speak with one voice. To bring mathematics on the agenda in Europe national societies should lobby at the national level and talk to their national representatives that are member of the various committees in Brussels. Similarly, joint initiatives of national societies could become more effective when unified at an European level and the EMS can facilitate this and integrate national initiatives to a European level. This will create a strong and clear European voice to stress the importance of Mathematics in Europe.

## Section F: Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

## Section G: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at CIRM in Luminy and further details will follow later in the year.

## Section H: Closing

On behalf of all the participants, the Chair thanked GAMM and the German Mathematical Society and, in particular, Heike Faßbender and Friedrich Götze for the excellent organization of the meeting at the Technical University of Berlin.