

## Draft minutes of the Virtual EMS Council Meeting in Bled on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2020

### Section A: Preliminaries

1. The President opened the virtual meeting and asked attention for the special situation due to Covid-19. This is the first time in the history of the EMS to have a virtual Council Meeting. A special exemption was made by the Finish government to have a valid virtual meeting although our statues require a meeting in person. The President expressed the hope to have a full Council meeting in the Fall in Edinburgh as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EMS and explained that the present meeting has a limited scope with focus on the financial reports, the budget for 2021-2022, the election of a Vice-President, the Secretary and five Members-at-Large, and the selection of the site for 9<sup>th</sup> ECM in 2024.
2. 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 are 96 delegates and 17 guests present at the virtual Council Meeting.
3. The President introduced Elvira Hyvönen from the EMS Office in Helsinki who was ready to help delegates online with any enquiries.
4. The agenda was agreed.
5. The minutes of the last Council Meeting in Prague were approved.
6. The Council elected Richard Elwes and Pavel Exner 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 report of recent developments in the society. Because of the Covid-19 developments the 8ECM organizers and the EC decided to postpone 8ECM to next year. The new date for the Portorož Congress is 20-26 June 2021. On October 29 the EMS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting will be organized in Edinburgh. To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary a booklet about the EMS and its history will be produced. In its Spring Meeting the EC decided to revamp the EMS Newsletter into an EMS Magazine more devoted to longer articles and to concentrate EMS News in the electronic Newsletter. After four years of service the Editor-in-Chief Valentin Zagrebnov will hand over his duties to the new Editor-in-Chief Fernando Costa. The President thanked Valentin for his excellent services maintaining the high standards of the EMS Newsletter. The President continued to report on the transfer of the EMS Publishing House from Zürich to Berlin.
2. Finance
  - 2.1. The Treasurer presented a summary of his report in the Council papers.
  - 2.2. He then presented the financial statements and auditor reports for 2018 and 2019 and continued with the budget for 2021 and 2022.

- 2.3. 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 new scientific initiatives the EMS could support financially, for example, Flagship Summer Schools, special interest group, and topical meetings at a European scale. 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 Treasurer went over the budget and explained the need for an improved EMS web page, facilities for virtual meetings, and the relation with the newly established publishing house of the EMS in Berlin, in short EMS Press. EMS Press is a company with EMS as its sole owner, the profits of the company will be used to support scientific activities of the EMS. The Council approved the budget for 2021 and 2022.
  - 2.4. Finally, Council reappointed Nicola Bellomo and Stanisław Janeczko as lay auditors, and PricewaterhouseCoopers as the professional auditors, for the years 2021 and 2022.
3. Membership
    - 3.1. 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 2963 individual members of the EMS.
    - 3.2. The Council approved by acclaim the application of the French Statistical Society to become again a full member of class 1.
    - 3.3. No applications were received for waiving of fees of corporate members.
    - 3.4. The list of two new institutional members was noted.
    - 3.5. Although it is the policy of the EMS to include societies rather than to expel them, the Emmy Noether Research Institute for Mathematics (ENI) almost never have paid their dues in the past years and also cannot pay their membership dues for 2020. The Council approved the proposal to put the institutional membership of ENI on hold. If they start paying their membership dues again then they can rejoin as an active institutional member with all the corresponding benefits and rights.

## Section C: Elections to Executive Council

The Council agreed to conduct the elections using the Helios Voting System. The elections started with Jorge Buescu, the nominate candidate for Vice-President for the term 2021-2024, who gave a brief presentation. The delegates voted electronically and Jorge Buescu was elected with an overwhelming majority and gladly accepted the result of the vote. Next was the election of Jiří Rákosník, the nominate candidate for Secretary for the term 2021-2024, who gave a brief presentation as well. The delegates voted electronically and Jiří Rákosník was elected with an overwhelming majority and gladly accepted the result of the vote.

The President then continued with the election of five Members-at-large of the Executive Committee, the eight candidates Frédéric Hélein, Stefan Jackowski, Barbara Kaltenbacher, Hrvoje Kraljević, Luis Narváez, Sergei Lando, Beatrice Pelloni, Susanna Terracini who all gave brief

presentations. The delegates voted electronically and elected Frédéric Hélein, Barbara Kaltenbacher, Luis Narváez, Beatrice Pelloni, and Susanna Terracini for the term 2021-2024. All elected Members-at-Large gladly accepted the result of the vote.

#### Section D: European Congresses of Mathematics

1. The President introduced the proposed sites of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECM Lisbon (Portugal) 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.
2. In the subsequent vote the Lisbon bid received 38 votes and the Seville bid received 56 votes. As a result, the Seville bid was elected as the site of the 8<sup>th</sup> ECM during 15-19 July of 2024.

#### Section F: Future Meetings

1. The President announced that the EMS30 celebration will be in Edinburgh on October 29 preceding the postponed 2020 Presidents' Meeting and the continuation of the present Council on 30-31 October and the EC meeting on November 1 all to be held in Edinburgh. Further details will follow.
2. The 2021 Presidents' Meeting will be held at CIRM, Luminy, France.
3. The Council in 2022 will be held in Bled, Slovenia.

#### Closing

The President thanked the delegates for their active participation of the first virtual Council. He also expressed the hope that our discussions during Council and the decisions taken will bring the society forward and can soon be done again in person.

Volker Mehrmann  
EMS President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Volker Mehrmann', written in a cursive style.