

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
*of the European Mathematical Society*  
*Uppsala, 26–27 June 2004*

**A. General Matters**

*A1. Welcome to delegates, and acceptance of presence of invited guests*

Sir John Kingman welcomed the participants to the meeting. The presence of invited guests was accepted.

*A2. Acceptance of the Agenda*

The Agenda was accepted with the provision that Item A7 be treated after Item A3.

*A3. Minutes of the last Council meeting in Oslo, June 2002*

One correction was noted: the individual fee for the next period should read 20 euros instead of 20 years.

*A4. Report of the Executive Committee*

a) Report on meetings of the Executive Committee since summer 2002

*A5. President's report*

The new Abel Prize had been awarded to J.-P. Serre in 2003, Sir Michael Atiyah and I. M. Singer in 2004. The President had attended both award celebrations.

Henri Cartan would turn 100 years on 8 July. Sir John Kingman asked whether he could congratulate him on behalf of European mathematicians. Council supported this by acclamation.

Mathematics was still not valued enough, and the community had to keep arguing its case, especially in Brussels. Luc Lemaire had worked relentlessly for the EMS. Also the national societies should keep up the pressure.

A European Research Council may be created, and could play a crucial role for the support of European research in mathematics.

The EU Framework Programmes should be modified to enable mathematicians to apply for more grants.

Concerning publishing, the President expressed concern, shared by many others, that a large portion of mathematics was being published by aggressive commercial publishers. Now the EMS Publishing House existed, and he encouraged delegates to advertise its services in their local communities. The President extended his deep thanks to Rolf Jeltsch and ETH, Zürich, for the support needed to establish the EMS Publishing House.

To carry out the work of the EMS, the support and help of others was needed and the President encouraged the audience either to volunteer or find colleagues who could help.

Warm thanks were given to Tuulikki Mäkeläinen.

A Scientific Advisory Panel had been set up and had proved very useful.

The President urged the Council to think about suggestions for his successor. The next President was to be elected in 2006.

#### *A6. Financial matters*

##### a) Report of the Treasurer

Olli Martio briefly explained the financial statements, taking those statements and the budget together.

The Newsletter costs had been underestimated in the previous budget.

Travel expenses of the Executive Committee were kept very low because the travel of many members was paid by their institutions.

The scientific activities consisted mostly of conferences.

The projects were EU and UNESCO contracts. Occasionally some overhead was paid for, but losses had also been incurred.

The Ministry of Education of Finland was thanked for paying the salary of the secretariat in Helsinki.

##### b) Financial statements and auditors' reports for 2002 and 2003

The Financial statements and auditors' reports for 2002 and 2003 were accepted.

##### c) Budget and membership fees, 2005 and 2006.

Council accepted the raising of the corporate members' unit fee  $x$  to 380 euro, as proposed.

The budget for the years 2005 and 2006 was accepted.

#### *A7. Membership items (covered after A3)*

##### a) Change of class of corporate members

The Royal Spanish Mathematical Society (RSME) was raised from Class 2 to Class 3.

The Catalan Mathematical Society (SCM) was raised from Class 1 to 2.

##### b) Election of corporate members: Full and Institutional Members

The Malta Mathematical Society was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Cyprus Mathematical Society was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Romanian Mathematical Society was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Belgian Statistical Society was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Norwegian Statistical Association was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Swedish Statistical Society was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

The Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (SEIO) was elected a full corporate member in Class 1.

##### c) Reciprocity memberships

No further reciprocity agreements had been proposed.

## **B. Elections**

Tellers: Professor Bodil Branner and Dr David Salinger were elected tellers.

### *B8. Elections to Executive Committee*

#### a) Vice-President

Pavel Exner was elected Vice-President by acclamation. The term of office was 4 years, starting 1 January, 2005.

#### b) 4 Members-at-Large

There were five candidates, namely Victor Buchstaber, Olga Gil-Medrano, Carlo Sbordone, Klaus Schmidt and Mina Teicher for four positions. No candidates were proposed from the floor. A written election was conducted. The tellers reported that 71 ballots were cast, all valid. The result of the election was as follows:

Victor Buchstaber 61 votes

Olga Gil-Medrano 49 votes

Carlo Sbordone 62 votes

Klaus Schmidt 48 votes

Mina Teicher 47 votes

Thus the following members were elected: Victor Buchstaber, Olga Gil-Medrano, Carlo Sbordone, Klaus Schmidt.

The term of office was 4 years, starting 1 January, 2005.

### *B9. Election of Auditors*

The professional auditors, P. Kaasalainen (deputy J. Weckman) were re-elected.

Kazimierz Goebel and Stephen Huggett were elected as EMS auditors.

Thanks were extended to L. Márki and J. Hubbuck for their work.

## **C. Detailed Review of Activities**

### *C10. Publications*

#### a) Report of the Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter had usually had two to three survey articles, reports of meetings, and presentations of national societies. The next issues would contain introductions to ERCOM members. There had been personal items, book reviews and a biannual problem corner. Attempts to put the Newsletter on EMIS had mostly been successful. An effort was being made to make the recent books and conferences sections available in a searchable form on EMIS.

The Editor asked for suggestions for feature articles.

Herbert Fleischner asked for some free issues for developing countries.

Thanks were given to Robin Wilson and to Martin Raussen for very successful editorships.

b) EMS Publishing House and European Mathematical Foundation

The EMS had established the European Mathematical Foundation to safeguard the EMS against financial responsibility for the publishing operation. The work is done by the Publishing House, EMSPH.

The Managing Editor, Thomas Hintermann, presented the current situation. Currently, the Publishing House published two journals: the *Journal of the European Mathematical Society* and *Interfaces and Free Boundaries*. *Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici* and *Elemente der Mathematik* would be published from 2005. It had been a difficult decision for the Swiss Mathematical Society to use the EMS Publishing House, but it was decided as a matter of principle, because the EMSPH was working for mathematicians.

On behalf of Council, Sir John Kingman thanked the Swiss society deeply. José Fernandez thanked Thomas Hintermann for his valuable contribution.

The *Oberwolfach Reports* series was being published by the EMSPH.

Thomas Hintermann appealed to delegates for help for the Publishing House. He asked Societies to include a brochure in their mailing, asked all delegates to circulate the catalogue at their institutions, and to encourage their libraries to purchase the products of the EMSPH. Also he urged them to encourage their colleagues to publish with the EMSPH.

Herbert Fleischner asked for special rates for developing countries.

Carles Casacuberta mentioned Springer's good cooperation with the EMS, which should be acknowledged.

c) Zentralblatt

Sir John Kingman introduced the subject. It was good to have competition and a database in Europe, particularly one with a long and broad tradition. It was now financed by the German and French governments, something that could not go on forever. It should become a more cross-European venture. In addition, it rested heavily on a very small number of people. The EMS was involved in *Zentralblatt*. Scientific input should be increased: for that purpose a scientific advisory board was needed, to give the views of the mathematical community and also to support the management.

There was general agreement that the EMS should continue to be involved in *Zentralblatt*.

Laurent Guillopé described the past French-German cooperation. MathDocCell had been created by the French government and had been in active cooperation with *Zentralblatt*. The EMS was a key player in making it a truly European enterprise. There had been an evaluation of the scientific part by 20 mathematicians. They had made a comparison between *Zentralblatt* and MathSciNet. Their recommendation was to set up a scientific advisory board, to widen the panel of reviewers, to make the proportion of reviews over abstracts better. Author identification had to be improved. The goal was to have a truly worldwide European-based database.

Bodil Branner encouraged delegates to subscribe to *Zentralblatt*. One possibility was to form a consortium. Also new reviewers were needed.

d) JEMS

The report from the Editor-in-Chief of JEMS was noted.

*C11. Report of the Publicity Officer*

David Salinger had presented a written report. Thanks were extended to David Salinger for his valuable services to the Society.

*C12. Reports from Society Committees*

a) Applied Mathematics

Supplementing the written report, the President mentioned that proper emphasis had to be put on applied mathematics. Fresh thinking was needed, and suggestions were most welcome.

b) Developing Countries

Herbert Fleischner supplemented his written report.

Carles Casacuberta urged him to coordinate efforts with ICM-2006.

John Ball informed delegates that there was an IMU CDE (Commission on Development and Exchanges) strategy group, which was considering a class of associate membership for developing countries, with no dues or votes. Efforts of the IMU and the EMS CDC (Committee on Developing Countries) should be coordinated.

The roles of CDC and CEEC in relation to the countries of the former Soviet Union should be reconsidered.

Council members were asked to volunteer to work for the CDC.

Thanks were given to Herbert Fleischner, Tsou Sheung Tsun and their colleagues.

c) Education

Anthony Gardiner had sent a report and the incoming Chair, Mina Teicher described her plans. In future there would be more cooperation with member societies' education committees. The project called Reference Levels, reporting on mathematics education at the age of 16, should be compared with the Pisa report.

d) Electronic Publishing

A written report was received.

e) ERCOM

The Chair, Manuel Castellet, presented his written report.

f) Group on Relations with European Institutions

Luc Lemaire had written a report, which he supplemented by a verbal report.

Sir John Kingman commented that Luc Lemaire has done extensive work for the EMS in Brussels: this was acknowledged with applause.

There was a constant struggle to obtain support for basic research in mathematics. None of the 6th Framework Programme's seven priorities mentioned mathematics directly. Marie Curie actions were more open, but the rate of success was only 1/20.

The establishing of a European Research Council could be instrumental in the support of European research in mathematics.

g) Raising Public Awareness

Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen, having written a report, made some further comments. First class teaching at high school level was needed, but it was also important at later stages. He urged the Council to convince their colleagues that raising public awareness was important. He mentioned unusual ways to advertise mathematics, for example, a shopping bag with mathematics on it. One should attempt to be visible in science centres, museums and exhibitions, but also in connection with music, sculpture, etc. Puzzles were very popular and close to mathematics, and should be used to attract people to mathematics.

A lively discussion ensued.

At the moment there was momentum for mathematics and one should make use of it.

There were plays and ballets illustrating probability. The internet was a useful tool for making publicity for mathematics, especially for young people.

In Cambridge there was a web site for teachers to pick up material. Maybe such sites could be made available by links at EMIS. The German Mathematical Society had such a web site.

Thanks were given to the Committee for its excellent and dedicated work.

h) Special Events

A report was available. The President promised that the EC would pay special attention to this committee.

AMAM03 in Nice had been very successful, as had been the Kolmogorov event in Moscow.

i) Support of East European Mathematicians

A written report was available. Thanks were given to Andrzej Pelczar, the committee's chair.

j) Women and Mathematics

Emilia Mezzetti reported briefly on the work of the Committee.

The committee was trying to collect data about the situation of women mathematicians, three years after the previous questionnaire. Catherine Hobbs had obtained a grant from the EU for organising a mentoring scheme.

Mina Teicher asked for a document from the Committee to show in Brussels on behalf of the Helsinki Group in Science.

Ehrhard Behrends commented that the networks only had male members.

ERCOM reported that the attendance of women at its research centres was about 7–18%.

Olli Martio requested statistics on the proportion of women in different sciences.

k) Publications

Rolf Jeltsch commented that the committee was in transition. The publications officer, Carles Casacuberta was given thanks for his dedicated work on EMS publications.

l) General Meetings

A written report was supplemented by Luc Lemaire. He encouraged delegates to put forward applications for summer schools in coming years.

A new idea of Mathematical Weekends with national societies had emerged, initiated by the Portuguese Mathematical Society. There were no deadlines. The next one was in Prague, followed by one in September 2005 in Barcelona.

He called for more proposals.

No suggestions for EMS lectures had been received. Should a new format be introduced? Input was requested from Council.

*C13. Scientific Meetings and Activities*

a) Summer Schools

b) EMS Lectures

c) LIMES (Large Infrastructure in Mathematics Enhanced Services)

Bodil Branner presented the LIMES project, which had just ended.

d) NEST (New and Emerging Science and Technology)

Luc Lemaire commented that this should be widely advertised, though relatively small amounts of money were available in EU terms. The project was looking for new ideas and was one of the few programmes where mathematics has a chance.

**D. Future Developments**

*D14.*

a) European Congress of Mathematics: 5ECM – 2008

The representatives, A.C.M. Ran, H.J.J. te Riele and J.J.O.O. Wiegerink, presented their bid to host the 5ECM in Amsterdam in 2008. They already had a website

[www.science.uva.nl/~brandts/5ECM/](http://www.science.uva.nl/~brandts/5ECM/)

A fee of 250 euro, excluding dinner and lunches, was proposed. The organizers were trying to include the costs of public transport in the fee. The proposed dates were 14–18 July 2008.

The Executive Committee had supported the bid to have the 5ECM in Amsterdam. The report of the site committee was among the Council papers. The Council decided by acclamation to accept the bid to have the 5ECM in Amsterdam on 14–18 July 2008.

b) Future Meetings

A UMALCA meeting with EMS will be held in 2005; EMS has representatives in the scientific committee.

### c) Digital Mathematical Library

Helge Holden had presented in his paper a vision for the future of the Digital Mathematical Library. The work should be conducted in cooperation with IMU, AMS and other partners.

It was too much for the Executive Committee of the EMS to accomplish, so volunteers were needed. It was agreed that a European dimension was needed.

John Ball informed Council that there was a web page

[www.wdml.org](http://www.wdml.org)

with a list of digitisation projects.

The Council agreed on the need for a leader and people to help.

Alexei Zhizhchenko mentioned that much work had been done in Russia and they had no problems with copyright.

Laurent Guillopé commented that there was much digitized material on the web, but one had to organise access to the material. Publishers should give their metadata. The open archive initiative was important.

It was agreed that coordination and a leader was needed. José Francisco Rodrigues would organise a conference in Portugal for this purpose as a satellite conference of the ICM in 2006.

### d) Bologna Process

David Salinger had prepared a working paper on the Bologna Process.

Sir John Kingman summed up the discussion. No general paper by the EMS should be produced. The national societies were to watch out for problems and approach the EMS with convincing arguments to obtain support from it, where necessary.

## **E. Miscellanea**

Vitali Milman complained that the EU made contracts, not grants, and that it was a very complicated, time-consuming, and humiliating process.

Luc Lemaire added that mathematicians should try to change the attitude of other scientists, who were only interested in the mathematics they need.

The President commented that bureaucracy ought to be a rapidly decreasing function.

Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen said that mathematicians wished to have a European Research Council.

### *15. Any Other Business*

Thanks were given to the departing Executive Committee Members, Bodil Branner, Marta Sanz-Solé, and Mina Teicher, as well as to Carles Casacuberta and Robin Wilson for their services to the Society. The President also thanked Sten Kaijser and his colleagues for organising a very pleasant meeting. He thanked all members of Council for the lively discussions.

*16. Next Council Meeting in 2006*

The next Council meeting would be held in connection with the ICM in 2006 in Madrid; the exact time would be decided later.

*17. Closing*

The President closed the meeting.