

Minutes of the Council meeting

*held in the Residence Hall for Researchers;
C/ Hospital, 64, E-08001 Barcelona, Spain on 7–8 July 2000*

The meeting opened at 10.00 a.m. on 7 July 2000

1. Welcome to delegates

The President welcomed the delegates and persons he had invited to the meeting. The Council raised no objections to the presence of invitees.

The President expressed the thanks of the delegates to the local organisers of the meeting, Sebastia Xambo Descamps, Marta Sanz-Solé and Javier Martínez de Albéniz.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The President proposed a slight change to the Agenda. The item 7 should be divided into two: 7(a) Report of the Publicity Officer and 7(b) Report on 3ecm. The proposal was accepted and the Agenda was agreed in this modified form.

3. Address of the President

The President's address is Appendix 1.

4. Minutes of Previous Council Meeting in Berlin (28–29 August 1998)

Agreed: The minutes of the Berlin Council meeting (28–29 August 1998), mailed in April, were approved.

5. Report of the Executive Committee

The report of the Executive Committee had been mailed. It was accepted by the Council meeting.

5(a) Report of the President

The report of the President is Appendix 2. It was accepted by the Council meeting.

5(b) Report of the Secretary

The Secretary had no points to report that were not treated under other points.

6. Financial Matters

6(a) Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer informed the Council that the income of EMS still consisted mainly of membership fees. They showed only a small increase. Expenses connected to individual members were rather high so raising the number of individual members would not raise income considerably.

There was no special concern for membership fees from corporate members.

The positive financial outcome was partly due to many Executive Committee members being supported by local sources.

Special projects, mainly financed by EU, were of possible financial concern.

A reserve fund of 70 000 euro had been collected and could be used to allay unexpected costs.

6(b) Financial Statements and Auditors' Reports, 1998 and 1999

1998 statement

Agreed: The financial statements for the year 1998 were accepted with one abstention.

1999 statement

Agreed: The financial statements for the year 1999 were accepted.

6(c) Budget and Membership Fees, 2001 and 2002

The Treasurer noted that the budget proposal contained no major changes compared to previous years. The proposal contained no changes for fees.

Agreed: The budget for the years 2001 and 2002 was approved.

7(a) Report of Publicity Officer

Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel, the previous Publicity Officer, was warmly thanked for her long and devoted service to the EMS.

Council noted that David Salinger had recently succeeded to the post.

7(b) Report on 3ecm

The Chair of the Organising Committee, Sebastia Xambo, reported briefly on the Congress. It was expected to have an attendance of about 1600 persons from more than 80 countries. The budget of the congress was sound, though it was raised from 90 million pesetas to 109.6, and it was balanced. The organisers had been able to give 10 million pesetas to prizes and 19.5 million as grants to young researchers. The grants were more than 300 in number.

For a successful organisation the support of people and institutions had been needed and they had been secured. The Congress had dedicated Organising and Executive Committees.

The Catalan Mathematical Society wished the Council a pleasant stay in Barcelona, both during the Council and the Congress.

8. Membership Items

8(a) Termination of Membership

The European Mathematical Trust had cancelled its membership because it had ceased to exist.

8(b) Change of Class of Corporate Members

The Royal Spanish Mathematical Society had expressed the wish to raise its class from one to two.

Agreed: The Royal Spanish Mathematical Society was moved to class 2.

8(c) Reciprocity Memberships

The Executive Committee had proposed a reciprocity agreement with the American Mathematical Society. The draft agreement included the sentence: This exchange agreement shall in no way interfere with existing reciprocity agreements between the AMS and corporate members of the EMS.

Agreed: The reciprocity agreement with the American Mathematical Society was unanimously accepted.

The Executive Committee proposed that the Council authorise the EC to negotiate reciprocity agreements in the spirit of the agreement reached with AMS. These agreements should be enacted on a provisional basis until they were ratified at a Council meeting.

Agreed: This authorisation was unanimously given.

B. Elections

9. Election of Corporate Members: Full and Institutional

The European Society for Mathematical and Theoretical Biology had applied for membership in Class 1.

Agreed: The membership application of the European Society for Mathematical and Theoretical Biology was approved unanimously.

10. Elections to Executive Committee, Election of Auditors

(It was noted that it was up to the Council to decide if a nominating committee were needed for the election of the Executive Committee.)

10(a) Vice-President

The Executive Committee had proposed Bodil Branner as Vice-President. There were no other nominations.

Agreed: Bodil Branner was elected unanimously to become Vice-President of EMS for the years 2001–2004.

10(b) Three Members at Large

Four candidates had been nominated to the Council: Pavol Brunowski, Victor Buchstaber, Marta Sanz-Solé and Mina Teicher.

No more nominations were received from the floor.

For the secret ballot, R. Mennicken, Robin Wilson and Ina Kersten were elected as tellers.

In the ensuing vote, 54 ballots were cast; they were all valid.

The votes received by the candidates were:

Pavol Brunovski 28

Victor Buchstaber 43

Marta Sanz-Solé 42

Mina Teicher 39

and Victor Buchstaber, Marta Sanz-Solé and Mina Teicher were declared elected as Members at Large of the Executive Committee for the years 2001–2004.

10(c) Auditors

As H.J. Munkholm and L. Reich were no longer delegates, new auditors had to be elected to replace them.

László Márki and John Hubbuck were proposed as Auditors for the years 2001–2002.

Agreed: László Márki and John Hubbuck were elected as Auditors for the years 2001–2002, unanimously.

Agreed: P. Kaasalainen, with K. Soikkeli as Deputy, were elected as Auditors for the years 2001–2002, unanimously.

C. Detailed review of activities

11. Publications

11(a) Report of the Publications Officer

Carles Casacuberta, the EMS Publications Officer, had prepared a report which had been mailed to the delegates. It was accepted by the Council meeting.

11(b) Newsletter

Robin Wilson complemented briefly on his written report on the Newsletter, which was accepted by the Council meeting.

The Newsletter now contained more feature articles, more reports and more on local societies but still more was needed. Country representatives had been requested for news from member societies, but very few names of possible correspondents had been received.

The French Mathematical Society complained that very few of their books had been reviewed in the 1999 Newsletter (only 2 out of about 150). It was agreed that the matter should be looked into.

There had been technical problems connected with having the Newsletter on EMIS; these would be worked on.

11(c) Journal of the European Mathematical Society, JEMS

The first four issues of JEMS had come out in 1999 and two further issues in the first half of 2000 prior to the Council meeting.

11(d) Electronic Publications

The matter was treated in the written report of the Electronic Publishing Committee which was accepted by the Council meeting.

12. Reports from Committees:

The Council encouraged the committees to have their work presented at future Council meetings by the Committee Chair or another Committee member. Items 12(b)–(g), 12(j) were covered by written reports, mailed to the delegates.

12(a) Applied Mathematics Committee

Colette Picard (SMAI) questioned the name of the Applied Mathematics Committee as there are no committees for other branches of mathematics. The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(b) Developing Countries Committee

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(c) Education Committee

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(d) Electronic Publishing Committee

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(e) ERCOM Committee

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(f) European Database Committee

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(g) The Group on Relations with European Institutions

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(h) Special Events

The Chair of the Special Events Committee, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented briefly on the work of the committee, describing the Diderot Mathematical Forums as its main projects. The DMF on Music at the end of 1999 had been very successful. It had resulted in a long-term project of a seminar on Mathematics and Music.

The next Forum, number 5, would treat Mathematics and Telecommunications; the planning was under way. Further plans include Mathematics and Medicine, Mathematics and Pictorial Arts as well as Mathematics and Risk. Suggestions for possible links were needed.

12(i) Summer Schools

Rolf Jeltsch complemented briefly on the written report for the years 1998–1999, Renzo Piccinini for the year 2000. It was intended that less developed areas should be concentrated on. The Committee wished to receive suggestions for courses. The EMS could give support though seldom financial one.

W. S. Kendall (LMS) suggested joining forces with other societies like the Bernoulli Society.

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(j) Support of East European Mathematicians

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(k) Women and Mathematics

The Chair of the Committee of Women and Mathematics, E. Mezzetti, underlined the most important points of the written report. The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

12(l) World Mathematical Year 2000

Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen orally complemented the written report. The work of the World Mathematical Year 2000 Committee would end with the year 2000 but the work would continue with a Raising Public Awareness programme.

Posters in (for example) Paris, Montreal, London and Barcelona had been successful.

A new EU project, DREAM (Developing and Raising Public Awareness in Mathematics), had been submitted to the EU.

The EMS would take part in the Science and Technology week later in 2000.

The Report was accepted by the Council meeting.

D. Future Developments

13. European Congresses of Mathematics: Location of ECM4 in 2004

The Chair of the Organising Committee in Gothenburg for the 4ecm, Peter Sjögren, presented the financial outlook of the planned Congress. Several applications for financial support had failed and the organiser wished to withdraw the bid to hold the Congress in Gothenburg.

Agreed: The Council decided to empower the Executive Committee to choose another venue for the 4ecm if needed.

14. Arrangements for the Location and Dates of the Council Meeting in 2002

Kristian Seip from the Norwegian Mathematical Society invited the Council to Oslo in 2002, before the Abel conference 2–8 June 2002.

Agreed: The invitation of the Norwegian Mathematical Society was accepted with pleasure. The dates were preliminarily fixed at 31 May–1 June 2002.

15. New Committees

The EMS Executive Committee had created a new committee for Raising Public Awareness in Mathematics, with Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen in the Chair.

16. MATH-NET

Martin Groetschel presented a brief outline of the German project MATH-NET.

Council encouraged collaboration between different electronic search systems.

E. Miscellanea

17. Any Other Business

17.1. ICIAM

Council was informed that the EMS had been accepted as a large associate member of ICIAM, the International Council/Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

17.2. Congress Fees

The delegates of the French Mathematical Society brought forward a motion accepted by the French National Committee for Mathematics (CNFM) concerning high fees for congresses:

The French National Committee for Mathematics has agreed on the following statement:

“The CNFM observes that registration fees for international conferences in mathematics tend to rise steadily. The Committee is concerned by such a trend, which makes it every year more difficult to support the participation of mathematicians asking for its financial help.”

Agreed: The following statement was passed as a resolution:

In relation to the CNFM statement, EMS Council expresses its concern over the high fees charged by some conferences.

Scientific meetings are an essential component in the development of Science and Mathematics, and should therefore always be considered as scientific events and not as commercial activities. In particular, their organisers should always make special efforts to facilitate participation by younger mathematicians.

It is also unacceptable that a scientist should be unable to attend a scientific conference solely because it has a high conference fee.

17.3. AMU

The President of the African Mathematical Union, Jan Persens, thanked the Council for the opportunity to have been able to attend and to learn about the EMS. He extended his thanks to EMS and to the London Mathematical Society, whose grants enabled him to attend. AMU had invited presidents of other organisations for its 2000 Congress and the President of EMS had participated.

Jan Persens called for collaboration, mentioning summer-winter schools, workshops, specialised conferences in sub-regions, graduate students' courses, external examinations, sharing teaching materials, possibly lecture note series at post-graduate level, and researchers' visits.

In 2004 the AMU congress will be held in Tunisia, where Europeans are most welcome.

17.4. Contact with the European Union

Rolf Jeltsch elaborated briefly on the report mailed out in June to the delegates. He noted that the EMS had had a real effect on the policy of the European Commission.

17.5. History of the EMS

A. Lahtinen proposed the following statements for the Council to adopt:

1) I suggest that EMS takes steps to ensure that at least a short history of the European Mathematical Council is written fairly soon and that key persons are interviewed or persuaded to write their memoirs.

The history should be published on a suitable forum. (László Márki would be a suitable person for the task, and had in principle promised to take on the task on certain conditions.)

2) I suggest that the Executive Committee gives a report on the present status on the project concerning the history of EMS, especially the forum and timetable of publication are of interest.

The President replied that the Executive Committee had received a manuscript of The History of the EMS, written by D.A.R. Wallace, and had decided to store it in the EMS archives for the moment.

Agreed: The statements were adopted.

Upon questioning, L. Márki informed the Council that he had in his possession minutes of the European Mathematical Council meetings. He mentioned that his writing would necessarily be a personal view of the events. Among the persons to be interviewed, he mentioned Sir Michael Atiyah and Leif Kristensen. L. Márki agreed to undertake the task of writing the history of the EMC, though not in the immediate future.

A. Lahtinen agreed to take care of the interviewing of the key persons of the European Mathematical Council.

18. Closing

The President expressed his thanks to all participants for attending. Special thanks were given to the Catalan hosts of the meeting, especially to Sebastia Xambo, Marta Sanz-Solé and Javier Martínez de Albéniz.

The meeting was closed.

Present:

Austrian Math. Soc.: Klaus Schmidt - present
Belarusian Math. Soc.: I.V. Gaishun - not present
Belgian Math. Soc.: Freddy Dumortier - not present
Bosnian Math. Soc.: M. Avdispahic - not present
Bulgarian Math. Soc.: Sava Ivanov Grozdev - not present
Catalanian Math. Soc.: Sebastia Xambo Descamps - present
Croatian Math. Soc.: Ivan Ivanssich - present
Czech Math. Union: Jan Slovak - present*
Danish Math. Soc.: Bodil Branner - present
Danish Math. Soc.: Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen - present
Deutsche Math.-Ver.: Ehrhard Behrends - present
Deutsche Math.-Ver.: Martin Grötschel - present
Deutsche Math.-Ver.: Ina Kersten - present
Dutch Math. Soc.: H.P. Urbach - present
Dutch Math. Soc.: Eduard Looijenga - present
ECMI: Luis Bonilla - present
Edinburgh Math. Soc.: John Hubuck - present
Estonian Math. Soc.: Kalle Kaarli - present
Finnish Math. Soc.: Aatos Lahtinen - present
French Math. Soc.: Nicole Berline - present
French Math. Soc.: Marc Brunaud - not present
French Math. Soc.: Mireille Martin-Deschamps - present
GAMM: Ulrich Langer - not present
GAMM: Rolf Jeltsch - present
GAMM: Reinhard Mennicken - present
Georgian Math. Soc.: R. Duduchava - not present
Greek Math. Soc.: Nikolaos Alexandris - present

Hungarian Math. Soc.: Péter Pál Pálffy - present
 Hungarian Math. Soc.: Dezső Miklós - not present
 Icelandic Math. Soc.: Ragnar Sigurdsson - present
 Inst. Math. Appl.: - not present
 Inst. Math. Appl.: - not present
 Irish Math. Soc.: Richard Timoney - present
 Israel Math. Union: Dan Haran - present
 Israel Math. Union: Mina Teicher - present
 Italian Math. Union: Renzo Piccinini - present
 Italian Math. Union: Carlo Sbordone - present
 Italian Math. Union: Vinicio Villani - present
 Kharkov Math. Soc.: L. Pastur - not present
 Latvian Math. Soc.: Alexander Šostaks - present
 Lithuanian Math. Soc.: E. Manstavicius - not present
 London Math. Soc.: W.S. Kendall - present
 London Math. Soc.: E.C. Lance - present
 London Math. Soc.: P.T. Saunders - present
 Luxembourg Math. Soc.: Jean Ludwig - not present
 Macedonian Soc. Math./Comp.: Donco Dimovski - not present
 Moscow Math. Soc.: A.A. Bolibruch - present
 Moscow Math. Soc.: Victor M. Buchstaber - present
 Moscow Math. Soc.: Alexei Zizcenko - present
 Norwegian Math. Soc.: Kristian Seip - present
 Polish Math. Soc.: Kazimierz Goebel - present
 Polish Math. Soc.: Julian Musielak - present
 Portuguese Math. Soc.: Jose A. P. Dias da Silva - not present
 Portuguese Math. Soc.: Graciano de Oliveira - not present
 Romanian Math. Soc.: Constantin Niculescu - not present
 Slovak Math. Union: Roman Fric - not present
 Slovenian Math. Soc.: Peter Legiša - present
 Soc. Math. Appl. Ind.: Colette Picard - present
 Soc. Math. Appl. Ind.: not present
 Spanish Royal Math. Soc.: Antonio M. Naveira - present
 Spanish Royal Math. Soc.: Carlos Andradás Heranz - present
 Spanish Soc. Appl. Math.: Enrique Fernández-Cara - not present
 St.Petersburg Math. Soc.: A. M. Vershik - present
 Swedish Math. Soc.: not present
 Swedish Math. Soc.: not present
 Swiss Math. Soc.: not present
 Swiss Math. Soc.: not present
 Ukrainian Math. Asso.: Igor V. Skrypnik - not present
 Ural Math. Soc.: Lev N. Shevrin - not present
 Voronez Math. Soc.: not present

Individual Members: Giuseppe Anichini - present
 Individual Members: Vasile Berinde - present
 Individual Members: Giorgio Bolondi - present
 Individual Members: Manuel Castellet - present

Individual Members: Alberto Conte - present
Individual Members: C.T.J. Dodson - present
Individual Members: Jean-Pierre Françoise - present
Individual Members: Salvador S. Gomis - present
Individual Members: Laurent Guillopé - present
Individual Members: Klaus Habetha - not present
Individual Members: George Jaiani - present
Individual Members: Willi Jäger - not present
Individual Members: Tapani Kuusalo - present
Individual Members: Marina R. Marchisio - present
Individual Members: László Márki - present
Individual Members: Vitali Milman - present
Individual Members: Andrzej Pelczar - present
Individual Members: Zeév Rudnick - present
Individual Members: Jan Slovak - present*
Individual Members: Gérard Tronel - present

*: only one vote

Observers:

European Society for Mathematical
and Theoretical Biology: Mats Gyllenberg - present
African Mathematical Union: Jan Persens - present
American Mathematical Society: Felix E. Browder - not present
Göteborg: Peter Sjögren - present

EMS Executive Committee: David Brannan - present
EMS Executive Committee: Doina Cioranescu - present
EMS Executive Committee: Olli Martio - present
EMS Executive Committee: Marta Sanz-Solé - present
EMS Newsletter: Robin Wilson - present
EMS Publicity Officer: David Salinger - present
EMS Publications: Carles Casacuberta - present
EMS Secretariat: Tuulikki Mäkeläinen - present

Appendix 1: The President's Address

State of the Union

The EMS is a highly active society with some 50 corporate members and approximately 1900 individual members. Unfortunately the number of individual members is much too small considering the more than 10 000–20 000 mathematicians in Europe.

The EMS is financially sound but still not strong enough to do the job it envisions, namely

- be active in the EU and on the supranational level;
- to provide professional service to our members;
- to help less privileged colleagues, e.g. from Eastern Europe, developing countries, young mathematicians.

We always run against the problem of rather limited funds.

Let me just mention two examples:

1. The *EMS Summer Schools*

If an EMS summer school is done in a country of EU or an EU associated country, funds are usually not a problem. However, if we want to do such a summer school in Eastern Europe it already becomes a big problem.

2. We have practically no permanent staff, except for our Helsinki office which is funded by the Finnish government. However, to maintain e.g. a website you need permanent people. Currently these things are done by volunteers who are actually paid for other work and hence they do have other priorities.

Finally I would like to end with the statement that EMS is now 10 years old. In my opinion it gained a very high visibility and we can be proud of what has been achieved.

Appendix 2: Report of the President

Fortunately the written report of the Secretary is quite complete and hence I would rather like to explain the philosophy behind the actions than give an itemized list.

In addition (to the main aims which I give later) I tried to keep contact with the member societies and the individual members at least on a yearly basis by writing an annual letter at the change of the year. Of course our Newsletter gives even better and more frequent information.

What have been the main aims:

- *To enlarge the base of EMS*

– subjectwise: reach out for applied mathematicians, increase visibility among applied mathematicians;

— more corporate members in applied mathematics like ESMTB:

— cooperation with SIAM: big conference in Berlin on 2–6 September 2001, with a top programme, about which you can read more in the June Newsletter interview of P. Deuffhard;

— introduction of the Felix Klein Prize;

— change the name of the committee to Applied Mathematics Committee to mark the change;

— be present at a booth in applied mathematics conferences;

— have more articles on applied mathematics in the Newsletter;

— make it possible for Europeans living outside Europe to join (reciprocity agreement with AMS, Australian Mathematical Society, Canadian Mathematical Society).

- *Making EMS more visible*

- by increasing relations with other societies;
- we are accepted as associated member of IMU and ICIAM;
- made contact with with AMS, SIAM and the Clay Mathematical Institute;
- by raising public awareness:

WMY2000 Committee and a new committee on RPA, chaired by Vagn Lundgaard Hansen;

- by acting at the EU level;

There will be a report by the Group on Relations with European Institutions.

Let me just say: my predecessor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been very succesful in influencing the definition of the 5th Framework Programme;

- one effect was that all our applications have been succesful.

We visited the new Commissioner of DGXII, M. Busquin, on 23 May to help shape the 6th Framework Programme. The visit was very positive. In fact, next Tuesday I have to go to Brussels for a closed workshop on EU-grid computing.

- by being more present in conferences, having a booth, for example. This is travel intensive and would not be possible without the support from my home institution.

- *Improving professional life/support for the mathematics community*

- web page (apologies for it not yet being optimal);
- Zentralblatt MATH LIMES project, about which you can read more in our Newsletter;

- the EULER project

Let me end my report by saying that even though this was a report by the President, all these things could not have been done without the help of the EC, the officers, the chairs of committees and their members, and our member societies.

For me this was the first one and a half years in office and it was satisfying to work together with a great team of devoted colleagues. Hence my thanks go to all those who helped me in my office.