

## Minutes of Council Meeting

*of the European Mathematical Society*

*in Turin 1–2 July 2006, Centro Congressi Unione Industriali*

### A. General matters

1. The President welcomed the delegates, and asked for acceptance of presence of invited guests. Attendance of guests was agreed.

#### 2. *Acceptance of the Agenda*

The agenda was accepted, with the proviso that the order of items may be changed if needed.

#### 3. *Minutes of the last Council Meeting in Uppsala (26–27 June 2004)*

The minutes were accepted.

#### 4. *Report of the Executive Committee*

##### (a) *Report on meetings of the Executive Committee since summer 2004*

A brief report was among Council papers. The Austrian delegate requested more detailed accounts of meetings. It was noted that the minutes contain confidential information better kept within the EC, but that EC meetings were reported in broader terms in the EMS Newsletter. The President stressed that the EC wished to keep members fully informed, and invited suggestions.

#### 5. *Report of the President*

The President reported on the continuing efforts of the EMS to convince the public, and decision makers including funding bodies, of the pervasive role of mathematics in modern society. Mathematics is often taken for granted, but new challenges often call for new mathematics.

This case has in particular to be pressed in Brussels, where Luc Lemaire plays an active part. There are however other important organisations, like the European Research Council, the European Science Foundation (where the EMS sends an observer to the Physical and Engineering Sciences Committee) and UNESCO.

The position paper used to brief the incoming EC Commissioner is being revised to take account of criticisms, especially in relation to applied mathematics. The Committee on Applied Mathematics, now reconstituted to embrace a wider range of applications, would be consulted. The President stressed the unity of mathematics.

EMS membership is stable, and the only major concern about corporate membership is the small number of national statistical societies. Individual membership should be increased, to emphasise the commitment of individual mathematicians to European activities.

The Executive Committee had decided to cooperate with ERCIM (European Research Centres of Informatics and Mathematics). ESOF (Euroscience Open Forums) meetings are

a good forum to publicize mathematics and the EMS aims at being present at future meetings. EMS is involved in the Abel Prize by proposing candidates for the Prize Committee.

EMS has acquired eu-domain names, and the EC is trying to explore the best way to use them.

The previous Publicity Officer, David Salinger, was an imaginative and energetic publicity officer and thanks were extended to him.

Finally, the President reported with regret the forthcoming retirement of Tuulikki Mäkeläinen as Helsinki Secretary, and thanked her for her loyal and efficient work for the Society since its earliest years. The new Helsinki Secretary, Riitta Ulmanen, was introduced to the Council.

(a) *Individual membership*

Martin Raussen had prepared a chart of individual members by countries, giving the EMS individual members per capita in each country. The chart showed great variability within countries. The President urged Council delegates to try to urge their colleagues to join EMS. The President encouraged member societies to translate the paper “A dozen reasons to join the European Mathematical Society” into national languages and distribute it among the national membership. The EMS urges the member societies to make it easy to become individual EMS members and pay membership dues. The number of individual members of the EMS is considered very important.

6. *Financial matters*

(a) *Report of the Treasurer*

(b) *Financial statements and auditors’ reports for 2004 and 2005*

The Treasurer commented on the financial reports and clarified the financial results of the years 2004 and 2005. A delegate pointed out that in the English version of the Auditors’ report for the year 2005 was once erroneously given as 2004.

The Financial Statements for the years 2004 and 2005 were approved.

(c) *Budget and membership fees, 2007 and 2008, as proposed by the Executive Committee*

Olli Martio presented the proposal of the Executive Committee and gave the reasons for proposing the increase in unit fees. The aim is to increase the reserve fund.

It was agreed to raise the unit fee, denoted  $y$ , for individual members to EUR 22, and to increase basic fee for corporate members, denoted  $x$ , to EUR 400. The EC proposal was accepted by a large majority on a show of hands.

The budget proposal was accepted.

7. *Membership items*

(a) *Change of class of corporate members*

The Polish Mathematical Society had asked to be moved from Class 2 to Class 3, beginning on 1 January 2007. The Executive Committee recommended the upgrade.

The Council agreed to move the Polish Mathematical Society to Class 3 from 1 January 2007.

(b) *Election of corporate members: Full and Institutional Members*

No new applications had been received.

(c) *Reciprocity memberships*

No new proposals had been received.

(d) *Cancellation of membership*

*Kharkov Mathematical Society*

The Kharkov Mathematical Society had informed Council that it withdraws from the Society due to economic difficulties.

Council accepted the withdrawal with regret.

*Voronez Mathematical Society*

The Council had been informed that the Voronez Mathematical Society had ceased to exist and its activities had been taken by the Research Institute of Mathematics at Voronez University.

Council decided to remove the Voronez Mathematical Society from the membership list.

## **B. Elections**

8. *Elections to Executive Committee:*

The President proposed to vote on each position separately.

(a) *President*

The Executive Committee had proposed Ari Laptev as President.

There were no other nominations and Ari Laptev was unanimously elected as President of EMS. He accepted.

(b) *Vice-President*

The Executive Committee had proposed Helge Holden as Vice-President.

There were no other nominations and Helge Holden was unanimously elected as Vice-President of EMS. He accepted.

(c) *Secretary*

The Executive Committee had proposed Stephen Huggett as Secretary.

There were no other nominations and Stephen Huggett was elected with all votes in favour, one abstention. He accepted.

(d) *Treasurer*

The Executive Committee had proposed Jouko Väänänen as Treasurer.

There were no other nominations and Jouko Väänänen was unanimously elected as Treasurer of EMS. He accepted.

(e) *Member-at-Large*

Three candidates had been proposed. The Israeli Mathematical Union withdrew its proposal.

Robin Wilson and Carles Casacuberta were elected scrutinizers.

A ballot was taken. There were 57 votes, all valid. Mireille Martin-Deschamps received 46 votes and Dorin Popescu 11.

Mireille Martin-Deschamps was elected a Member-at-Large. She accepted.

9. *Election of Auditors*

Pekka Kaasalainen, CPA, and Johan Weckman, CPA, as Deputy, were elected as professional auditors for the accounts of the years 2007 and 2008.

Kazimierz Goebel and Gregory Makrides were elected as EMS auditors for the years 2007 and 2008.

**C. Detailed Review of Activities**

10. *Publications:*

(a) *Report of the Newsletter Editor*

Martin Raussen complemented his written report. The Newspaper is mainly sent to individual members. Subscriptions are very few. He urged delegates to try to find subscriptions from their institutes.

Martin Raussen was thanked for his excellent work.

(b) *EMS Publishing House and European Mathematical Foundation*

The President reported on the European Mathematical Foundation.

Thomas Hintermann complemented his written report. The Publishing House has increased its activities substantially and the outlook for the future is good.

*JEMS*

The report by the Editor in Chief was noted. JEMS has been established as a high-standard journal.

Sir John Kingman reported on Zentralblatt. The partners of Zentralblatt are Springer, FIZ-Karlsruhe, Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and EMS. Financial support is given by the German and French governments. A scientific users' panel had been established under the chairmanship of Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. Many of the group's suggestions had been followed. There is a certain credibility problem among users of mathematical databases. He asked delegates to encourage colleagues to use Zentralblatt. It is necessary to keep more than one large database available to keep competition.

(c) *An item from SMF*

Société Mathématique de France had asked about collaboration and mutual support with the national societies and EMS. The President replied that EMS is very willing to pursue any useful cooperation.

11. *Report from the Publicity Officer*

David Salinger's report was noted.

12. *Reports from Society Committees:*

(a) *Applied Mathematics*

The chair, Mario Primicerio had sent an extensive report. He invited all delegates to join a meeting of the committee after the Council meeting. He offered to include any interested delegate in the committee's mailing list. Norbert Mauser raised a number of concerns about the procedure in relation to this and other committees. These and other comments will be considered in due course by the EC.

(b) *Developing Countries*

Tsou Sheung Tsun complemented the report she and Herbert Fleischner had submitted to the Council. Informal internal lecture notes in English from Oxford were put on CD-ROM and sent to Africa. The plan is to follow the scheme later in French and Spanish.

She and the other members were thanked for very active and productive work.

(c) *Education*

An extensive report had been received. Commenting on her report, Mina Teicher gave warm thanks to the Bonn MPI for their hospitality during the committee's meeting in Bonn. The committee wants to be present at ICIAM in Zurich in 2007.

(d) *Electronic Publishing*

Pavel Exner reported that the committee is active but commented that the EMS Electronic Library might be vulnerable being dependent on a very small number of people. The journal part of ELib functions well, while the book section needs enlargement. Digitalisation of mathematical literature is to be pushed forward. A satellite conference to ICM2006 will take place in Portugal on digitalisation.

(e) *ERCOM*

A written report had been submitted to Council. Sir John Kingman reported on the committee and introduced the new chair, Jan Karel Lenstra.

(f) *Group on Relations with European Institutions*

Luc Lemaire made a report on the activities of the group. EMS has been able to gain some influence in the EU. The main task had been contacts with Brussels but also other European institutions were contacted.

(g) *Meetings*

Luc Lemaire complemented his written report. The major activities included

- Summer Schools, with sizable funding from EU; the programme is running smoothly.
- EMS Mathematical Weekends had taken place four times and he encouraged the delegates to find new possibilities for future ones.
- No Diderot Mathematical Forums had taken place recently. He made a plea to delegates to be active in finding proposals.
- Joint Meetings with others (SIAM, UMALCA, national societies) had taken place, and delegates should discuss with colleagues proposals for future meetings.
- EMS Lectures had not taken place due to lack of proposals. He made a plea to delegates to be active in finding proposals.

(h) *Raising Public Awareness*

Vagn Lundgaard Hansen had sent a report, which was complemented by Olga Gil-Medrano. In addition to the report she mentioned that there will a Special Activity at ICM2006 in Madrid organized by the EMS on Communicating mathematics to broad audiences. Her report was followed by a lively discussion and suggestions for future activities.

(i) *Support of East European Mathematicians*

The written report of this committee was noted. It was also noted that it is a very active committee.

(j) *Women and Mathematics*

Klaus Schmidt highlighted some items of the written report. The first priority is fact finding, what has changed in the past ten years. Mathematical education at school is an important issue as girls should be encouraged in their early studies. There is now more flexibility in the career structure for women, but no evidence for an increase in the number of permanent academic positions. In some countries there even seems to have been a decrease. He encouraged member societies to think of women when electing delegates. The Newsletter will publish information on the work of this committee.

The President asked for suggestions from delegates for members of any committees. The EC would adjust terms of office to achieve a better rotation of members.

## **D. Future Developments**

### *13. European Congresses of Mathematics*

(a) *European Congress of Mathematics: 5ECM in 2008*

Jan Karel Lenstra reported briefly on the 5ECM to be held on 14–18 July 2008. The web address is

[www.5ecm.nl](http://www.5ecm.nl)

where one can find material on the congress, including the composition of the programme committee.

(b) *Future Meetings: Bids for ECM in 2012*

Andrzej Pelczar invited the mathematicians to Krakow in 2012 for the 6th ECM.

An official bid would be sent before the end of the year. The President urged the delegates to encourage their national societies to submit bids for the 2012 Congress.

**E. Miscellanea**

14. *Any Other Business*

The ICM2006 in Madrid had at the moment relatively few registered participants from Europe. The delegates were urged to e-mail in their countries advertising the Congress. Sir John Ball endorsed the plea. The ICM's should target young people and mathematicians from developing countries.

Marta Sanz-Solé reported on the scientific programme.

Rolf Jeltsch reminded the Council that the next ICIAM Congress will be on 16–20 July 2007 in Zurich.

Mats Gyllenberg informed the Council that a European Society of Mathematical and Theoretical Biology meeting will be held in July 2008 in Edinburgh.

(a) *An item from SMF*

The French Mathematical Society had asked about the policy of the EMS regarding the languages used in EMS. Council recognised the advantages of having a single language – English – for most purposes at the research level, but noted that school education was always in national languages. Translations of mathematical material into native languages should be encouraged.

(b) *ERCIM*

Jan Karel Lenstra, Vice-President of ERCIM, described the consortium of 17 members, mostly institutes. The EMS Executive Committee had decided to start cooperation with ERCIM in a small group. Martin Raussen asked for an article to be published in the Newspaper.

(c) *OECD*

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon informed Council of an OECD project on mathematics and industry that took a narrow instrumental view in which each industry was assumed to have its own restricted mathematical toolkit. He urged delegates to contact their OECD representatives to argue a wider view.

(d) *Other Matters*

The President urged the delegates to contact industrialists and other persons to persuade them to inform their colleagues of the importance of mathematics to modern society.

Anatoly Vershik informed Council of the Euler conference organised by Russian Academy of Science in June 2007. More information can be found at [www.pdmi.ras.ru/eimi](http://www.pdmi.ras.ru/eimi) or <http://eulerfoundation.com/conference2007.htm>.

The President thanked the delegates, Tuulikki Mäkeläinen and the local organisers for their work resulting in a very successful Council meeting.

15. *Next Council Meeting in 2008*

The next Council meeting will be held in conjunction with the 5ECM in Amsterdam in 2008.

16. *Closing*

The President gave very warm thanks to Alberto Conte and his colleagues for the excellent organisation and hospitality. The President closed the meeting.