

European Mathematical Society

MINUTES

COUNCIL

of the meeting held in Paris, 4–5 July 1992. The meeting was attended by about 55 delegates and the quorum was fulfilled. Also present, by invitation, were some members of the Executive Committee and its subcommittees, observers representing societies that had applied for full membership and Ms T. Mäkeläinen representing the Society's secretariat.

1. Welcome to delegates

The President welcomed, in particular, delegates representing individual members and observers representing potential full members. He thanked the SMF and SMAI for making the arrangements for the Council meeting and for their work in ensuring the success of the European Congress of Mathematics.

He asked for comments on the Agenda, and there was a complaint that delegates had not received a report on the activities of the Executive Committee. It was hoped that there would be such a report at future Council meetings. The President said that most of the Agenda for the meeting constituted an account of the work of the Executive Committee, and that he would give a verbal summary of its main activities immediately before Item 7 of the Agenda.

2. Minutes of foundation meeting

The Minutes of the Foundation Meeting in Warsaw, 29–29 October 1990, were agreed subject to the following change: on page 6, replace the sentence 'The budget was ... fees' (in lines 9–11 of Item 13) by 'A detailed budget was distributed.'

There were no matters arising on the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda.

3. Election of corporate members

Full membership

The Secretary reported that applications for full membership had been received from the following mathematical societies.

- Class 2 Israel Mathematical Union
- Class 1 Catalan Mathematical Society
- Croatian Mathematical Society
- Mathematical Society of Kharkov
- St Petersburg Mathematical Society
- Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of the Republic of Slovenia
- Ukrainian Mathematical Association

The observers representing these societies withdrew while there was a long discussion on the general principles of full membership. The main points that emerged were the following.

- The Society should have a clear and consistent interpretation of the geographical extent of Europe. The Treasurer reported that he had received legal advice that the Society was free to make its own interpretation of this.
- Some delegates were worried that there was a danger of proliferation of full members, and thought that the Society should discourage member societies representing small or overlapping geographical areas. There were comments that at a suitable time the Statutes should be reviewed in the light of experience to make the criteria for full membership more explicit.
- Several delegates asked that the Council should be provided with more detailed information about prospective member societies in future.

After this general discussion, the Council voted separately on the seven applications for full membership, which were all approved by large majorities, the number of votes against being: