

# Minutes of the EMS Council Meeting Donostia/ San Sebastián, 28th and 29th June 2014

## Section A: Preliminary items

- A1** Mrs Itziar Alkorta, Vice Minister for Universities and Research in the Basque Government, welcomed everybody to Donostia/San Sebastián and wished us a successful Council. The President thanked her, and gave her own welcome to all the delegates and guests.
- [There were 62 delegates and 13 guests, listed in a separate document. Also, all reports marked \* appear separately, among the tabled papers.]
- A2** The President introduced Erica Runolinna and Elvira Hyvönen (from the office in Helsinki), who were ready to help delegates with any enquiries.
- A3** The agenda was approved, and it was agreed to take items **A**, **B**, **C**, and the first half of **E** on Saturday, and the remainder on Sunday.
- A4** The minutes of the last Council meeting, in Kraków in 2012, were approved.
- A5** The President asked for nominations from the floor of candidates for election to the Executive Committee. There were none. Maria Esteban, Arne Jensen, and Elizabetta Strickland were then elected Scrutineers.

## Section B: Reports, Finance, and Membership

- B1** The President presented her report\*, noting in addition the Joint Mathematical Weekend with the London Mathematical Society to be held in Birmingham in September 2015. She also took the opportunity to thank Cédric Villani for his offer to host the EMS 25th Anniversary event at the Institut Henri Poincaré in 2015.
- B2** The Secretary gave a short report on the meetings of the Executive Committee since the last Council. Then Vice-President Martin Raussen gave a report on the redevelopment of the EMS web site, describing the planned improvements to its security and usability. In a brief discussion, Paul Kettler encouraged participation in the new site, and Terry Lyons made the point that the site may already have been hacked, and so the Society

was already at some risk. Martin Raussen concluded by noting the from now on the Society would be devoting more time and money to the site's maintenance.

### **B3** Finance

**B3.1** The Treasurer gave a presentation\* of the Society's finances, focussing on two possible budgets, which differed in that one left the membership fees unchanged while the other included a small increase. He emphasised the proportion of the expenditure on scientific projects.

**B3.2** The Treasurer then presented the financial statements and auditors reports for 2012 and 2013. These were approved by Council.

**B3.3** The Council then approved the Treasurer's proposal to increase the membership fees, and having done so it approved the budget, with the new fees.

**B3.4** Finally, the Council appointed Nicola Bellomo and Stefan Jackowski as lay auditors, and PricewaterhouseCoopers as the professional auditors, for the years 2015 and 2016.

### **B4** Membership

**B4.1** The Treasurer presented and explained the membership statistics\*, which led to a brief discussion on the variation from one country to another of the number of people who join the EMS through their national societies. It was also noted that many mathematicians from quite poor regions in Europe join the American Mathematical Society instead of the EMS. The President concluded the discussion by remarking that we need to show potential members what we do as a Society.

**B4.2** The Council approved by acclaim the change of class of the Italian Mathematical Union from 3 to 4, and the Finnish Mathematical Society from 1 to 2.

**B4.3** Council agreed that fees should be waived for the Greek Mathematical Society and the Ural Mathematical Society, and that a reduced fee should be negotiated with the Maltese Mathematical Society. There was a question over whether a more consistent approach could be taken, and the President responded by pointing to the very wide economic and political variation among the countries of Europe, and saying that if possible it is preferable to include Societies, to help them, rather than to expel them.

**B4.4** The list of new Institutional and Associate members was noted.

**B5** The Secretary introduced the proposed change to one of the By-Laws. The By-Law would now read:

*RULE 12: Delegates representing individual members shall be elected by a ballot organized by the Executive Committee from a list of candidates who have been nominated and seconded, and have agreed to serve. These delegates must themselves be individual members of the European Mathematical Society.*

The Council approved this change.

**B6** The Publicity Officer gave a presentation\* on his work.

## **Section C: Elections**

Pavel Exner, Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel, and Mats Gyllenberg, the candidates for election as President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively, each gave a short presentation, and then they left the room. For each candidate, the President asked Council whether a formal ballot was required. In each case there was no such request, and all three candidates were elected by a show of hands. The candidates returned, and Pavel Exner gave a short acceptance speech.

Then Volker Mehrmann gave a short presentation, and then left the room. The President asked Council whether a formal ballot was required, but it was not, and Volker Mehrmann was elected to the Executive Committee for his second term by acclamation.

## **Section D: European Congresses of Mathematics**

**D1** The President gave a report on the preparations for the 7th ECM, focussing on the procedures adopted by the Executive Committee in choosing the Chairs and members of the Scientific Committee and the various Prize Committees. She was very pleased to announce that the Hirzebruch Lecture Committee consisted of Michael Atiyah, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Günter Ziegler, and Jürg Kramer. She thanked *Compositio Mathematica* for its significant financial support for the prizes, and informed Council that she would be making a presentation on the 7th ECM at the ICM in Seoul.

**D2** Volker Mehrmann gave a presentation\* on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 7th ECM.

**D3** The President announced that the call for bids for the 8th ECM would be published in the December issue of the *Newsletter*.

## **Section E: EMS Committees**

**E1** José Antonio Carrillo, the Chair of the Applied Mathematics Committee, gave a presentation\* of the work of the Committee. The President remarked on the importance of the involvement of ERCOM, which was a

very valuable resource, and she also drew attention to the Deloitte Report in the UK, which was available on the EMS web site.

- E2** On behalf of the Chair of the Committee for Developing Countries, Andreas Griewank gave a report on the work of the Committee. He referred to its web page, and highlighted the book shipment programme, the workshops on electronic resources, and the Emerging Regional Centres of Excellence.
- E3** Günter Törner, the Chair of the Education Committee, gave a presentation\* of the work of the Committee.
- E4** Jiří Rákosník, the Chair of the Electronic Publishing Committee, gave a presentation\* on the work of the Committee. The President commented on the overlap with the work of the Publications Committee, and suggested that in due course there might be a single committee with these two as sub-committees. Gert-Martin Greuel asked about the relationship between the WDML and the EuDML, and the answer was that at present they are quite distinct projects. The President noted the merger between STATPROB and the Encyclopedia of Mathematics.
- E5** On behalf of the Chair of ERCOM, Joaquim Bruna described the work of the Committee. The President informed the Council that Ari Laptev would be taking over the Chair of ERCOM in October.
- E6** Arne Jensen, Chair of the Ethics Committee, gave a presentation\* on the work of the Committee, focussing on the Code of Practice. Terry Lyons noted that the London Mathematical Society had its own Code of Practice. Gert-Martin Greuel commented that plagiarism is encountered almost every week by Zentralblatt, and that if appropriate they can stop indexing the journal.
- E7** Carles Casacuberta, Chair of the Committee for European Solidarity, gave a presentation\* on the work of the Committee.
- E8** On behalf of the Chair of the Meetings Committee, Ciro Ciliberto described the work of the Committee. The President noted that this Committee would become the Scientific Committee for the Society.
- E9** The President introduced the discussion on the draft paper on Open Access prepared by the Publications Committee. She emphasised that it was an early draft, and thanked the Committee for their work. Then the Treasurer gave a presentation\* of the paper, after which the President invited people to send comments to Bernard Teissier or to the EMS office. Arne Jensen drew attention to the lists of “good” journals, which will be made available on the Ethics Committee’s web page.
- E10** Ehrhard Behrends, the Chair of the Raising Public Awareness Committee, gave a presentation\* on the work of the Committee, and invited suggestions for new members of the Committee.

**E11** On behalf of the Chair of the Women and Mathematics Committee, Elizabeth Strickland gave a presentation\* on the work of the Committee.

## Section F: Mathematics in Europe

**F1** The President gave a presentation\* on Horizon 2020.

**F2** Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, gave a presentation\* on its work. The President thanked him for standing as President of the ERC, and asked Council for comments and questions. Grégoire Allaire asked whether it would be possible for the ERC to give smaller grants, but to more people. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon replied that he and the ERC Board are in favour of this, but that so far the Scientific Council of the ERC has voted against such a move. Nicola Bellomo remarked that it is a shame that the funding for research networks has gone, and he also explained the difficulty in forming the teams necessary for research in applied mathematics. Gert-Martin Greuel asked about interdisciplinary research, and Jean-Pierre Bourguignon replied that it is clear that such projects are not so well supported. This was a hard problem, but he would be trying to address it. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon finished by noting that some institutions are taking control of the budgeting part of the applications, which he regards as unacceptable.

## Section G: Publication Activities

**G1** On behalf of the Editor-in-Chief, Jorge Buescu gave a presentation\* on the *Newsletter*. The President thanked all the Editors for their work, and noted the suggestion to think of a section aimed particularly at young mathematicians.

**G2** The President drew attention to the report (in the papers) from the Director of the EMS Publishing House, and described its relationship with the EMS, noting that the Board of the European Mathematical Foundation controls the policy of the publishing house. The EMS Publishing House now has a turnover of 1 million euros, arising from 18 journals (of which it owns 8) and 10 to 15 books per year. The new *Surveys in Mathematical Sciences* would be free to EMS members for one year, during which a subscription system would be decided on. She also noted the policy on journal pricing, and pointed out that the prices per page had been published in the *Newsletter*. Finally, the President noted that the Publishing House was at a critical stage in its development, and some fundamental decisions on its structure would have to be taken quite soon.

**G3** Gert-Martin Greuel gave a brief report on Zentralblatt, drawing attention to his report (in the papers). He described the significant improvements

in the system, and highlighted the fact that it is a not-for-profit and community-driven enterprise.

## Section H: Projects

**H1** Thierry Bouche gave a demonstration of Googling a research article, getting the EuDML entry for it as the first hit, going to the EuDML site, and then finding the paper itself. He observed that in many cases this would not be possible without the EuDML database, and noted that the site also contains other useful metadata such as citations, the Zentralblatt review, and so on. The President thanked Thierry Bouche and Jiří Rákosník for all their work.

**H2** Maria Esteban gave a presentation\* on the EU-MATHS-IN project.

## Section I: Future meetings

**I1** The next Meeting of Presidents would be hosted by the Austrian Mathematical Society and held in Innsbruck in 2015 (on a date to be fixed). The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Austrian Mathematical Society.

**I2** The next Council meeting would be held in Berlin just before the ECM in 2016, at the Humboldt University.

## Closing

The President thanked the Spanish mathematical societies for hosting the Council, and in particular Luis Vega for the excellent local organisation. She also thanked the delegates for helping to make the Council so smooth and productive. Martin Raussen thanked the President, Secretary, and Treasurer for all their work during their terms of office.