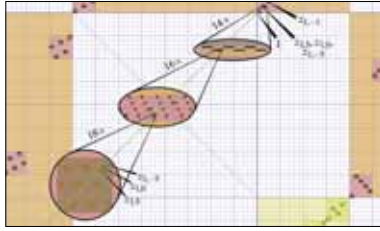


# NEWSLETTER

OF THE EUROPEAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY



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# European Mathematical Society

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# EMS Council meeting in Torino, 1–2 July 2006

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Vasile Berinde, EMS Publicity Officer

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Delegates at Council.

The 2006 meeting of the European Mathematical Society's Council was held in the Conference Hall of the Centro Congressi dell'Unione Industriali in Torino. It consisted of two sessions, an afternoon session from 1pm till 6pm on 1st July and a morning session on 2nd July from 9am till 12am.

Around sixty delegates of members were present; the quorum of the Council, which requires two-fifth of its total number of delegates (105), was easily satisfied. Also in attendance were three members of the EC who are not delegates and some invited guests, amongst whom we mention Sir John Ball (President of IMU), Michael Cowling (President of the Australian Mathematical Society), Tuulikki Mäkeläinen and Riita Ulmanen from EMS Helsinki Secretariat, and Thomas Hintermann (Managing Director of the EMS Publishing House).

The meeting was opened by the President who welcomed the delegates and expressed his thanks and very warm gratitude to the local hosts.

## Report of the Executive Committee

A brief report on the meetings of the Executive Committee since the summer of 2004 was among the Council papers that were electronically sent to all delegates prior to the meeting. On that issue, the Austrian delegate requested that more detailed accounts of meetings should be given. It was replied that the minutes contain confidential information better kept within the EC, but that EC meetings were regularly reported in broader terms in the EMS Newsletter. The President stressed that the EC wished to keep its members fully informed and invited suggestions for improvement.

## Report of the President, Sir John Kingman

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. In particular, this case has to be pressed in Brussels, where Luc Lemaire plays an active part. However, there are also other important organizations to be considered, like the European Research Council (EMS Vice-President Pavel Exner is a member of this body), 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 that are members of the EMS. Individual membership should be increased to emphasize the commitment of individual mathematicians to European activities. Grateful thanks were extended to the previous EMS Publicity Officer, David Salinger, who was an imaginative and energetic publicity officer. 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.

### Individual Membership

Martin Raussen had prepared a chart of individual membership by country, giving the EMS individual members per capita in each country. The current individual membership is 2151; 2013 of them come from Europe and the rest from USA & Canada (66), Asia (47), Latin America (10), Australia (9) and Africa (6). The chart also showed great variability within countries. The President urged Council delegates to try to urge their colleagues to join the EMS. To this end, the President encouraged member societies to translate the paper „A dozen reasons to join the European Mathematical Society“, written by David Salinger, into their 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 fees. The number of individual members of the EMS is considered very important.

### Corporate Membership

The Polish Mathematical Society had asked to upgrade class. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council agreed to move the Polish Mathematical Society to Class 3 from 1st January 2007. The Kharkov Mathematical Society had informed Council that it withdraws from the Society due to economic difficulties. The Council accepted the withdrawal with regret. The Council had been informed that the Voronez Mathematical Society had ceased to exist and its activities had been taken

over by the Research Institute of Mathematics at Voronez University. The Council decided to remove the Voronez Mathematical Society from the membership list.

### Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer commented on the written financial reports and clarified the financial results of the years 2004 and 2005. The financial statements for the years 2004 and 2005 were approved. Despite the financial resources of the Society being healthy and stable, Olli Martio presented a proposal of the Executive Committee and gave reasons for increasing unit fees. The main aim was to increase the reserve fund. It was agreed to raise the unit fee for individual members, denoted  $y$ , from EUR 20 to EUR 22 and to increase the basic fee for corporate members, denoted  $x$ , from EUR 380 to EUR 400. The EC proposal was accepted by a large majority on a show of hands. The budget proposal was also accepted.

### Elections to Executive Committee

There were five vacant officer positions, left open by the ending of the terms of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and one of the ordinary members. The Executive Committee had one nomination for each position and no nominations were made on the floor. The President proposed to vote on each position separately. Ari Laptev was unanimously elected as President of the EMS. In his address of thanks, he briefly described the challenges of being the president and promised to be open to all ideas. Then Helge Holden was elected as Vice-President of the EMS, Stephen Huggett was elected as Secretary and Jouko Vaananen was elected as Treasurer. There were three nominations for the one vacant Member-at-Large seat: Mina Teicher (Israel Mathematical Union), Mireille Martin-Deschamps (French Mathematical Society) and Dorin Popescu (Romanian Mathematical Society). As the Israel Mathematical Union withdrew its proposal, a ballot was taken for the two remaining candidates. Mireille Martin-Deschamps received 46 of 57 valid votes and was elected as Member-at-Large of the EC.

### 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 (they previously served in this capacity for the years 2003 and 2004). Kazimierz Goebel (re-elected for a second term) and Gregory Makrides (just elected) will be the EMS auditors for the years 2007 and 2008.

### Reports and Debates

The Detailed Review of Activities started with the report

of the Newsletter Editor, Martin Raussen. He complemented his written report with important information and, as subscriptions are very few, he urged delegates to try to find subscriptions at their institutes. Martin Rausen was thanked for his excellent work. Thomas Hintermann, Director of the EMS Publishing House also complemented his written report and concluded that the EMS Publishing House has increased its activities substantially and the outlook for the future is good. The other business was related to: JEMS (it has been established as a high-standard journal); Zentralblatt MATH (Sir John Kingman asked delegates to encourage colleagues to use Zentralblatt. It is necessary to keep more than one large database available to keep up competition); and then the written report from the Publicity Officer, David Salingar.

Reports from Society Committees followed, most of the written reports being vivaciously complemented by their Chairs or members.

(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 add any interested delegate to the committee's mailing list. Norbert Mauser raised a number of concerns about the procedure in relation to this and other committees but received little support;

(b) *Developing Countries*. Tsou Sheung Tsun complemented the report she and Herbert Fleischner had submitted to the Council and stressed the informal internal lecture notes in English from Oxford that were put on CD-ROM and sent to Africa. The plan is to follow the scheme later in French and Spanish;

(c) *Education*. Commenting on her extensive written report, Mina Teicher gave warm thanks to the Bonn Max Planck Institute for their hospitality during the committee's meeting in Bonn. She also announced that the committee wants to be present at ICIAM in Zurich in 2007;

(d) *Electronic Publishing*. Pavel Exner commented that few of the committee members are active. The basis of committee should be broadened. The book section on EMIS needs enlargement. Digitalization of mathematical literature is to be pushed forward. A satellite conference to ICM2006 will take place in Portugal on digitalization;

(e) *ERCOM*. 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 improving contact with Brussels but other European institutions were also contacted;

(g) *Meetings*. Luc Lemaire complemented his written report. The major activities included

- Summer Schools, with sizable funding from the 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 re-

cently. 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*. Olga Gil-Medrano complemented a report that had been sent by Chair Vagn Lundgaard Hansen with a PowerPoint presentation. 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. Among others, he encouraged member societies to think of women when electing delegates. The Newsletter will publish information on the work of this committee.

Closing this matter, 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.

## Congresses of Mathematics

Jan Karel Lenstra reported briefly on the 5th ECM ([www.5ecm.nl](http://www.5ecm.nl)), 14th–18th July 2008, in Amsterdam. A bid for the ECM in 2012 was announced by Andrzej Pelczar who invited the mathematicians to Krakow in 2012 for the 6th ECM. An official bid would be sent before the end of the year. Other bids are welcome and the President urged the delegates to encourage their national societies to submit bids for the 2012 Congress.

## Closing matters

To conclude, the President, who courteously chaired the whole meeting and released the audience from time to time with subtle English humour remarks, thanked the local organizers, Alberto Conte and his colleagues, for their work in collaboration with Tuulikki Mäkeläinen and Helge Holden, resulting in a very successful Council meeting. He also thanked the delegates for attending it.