

Report on the Meeting of Presidents of Mathematical Societies, in Maynooth

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*Please refer to the separate list for attendance.
Presentations marked like this* are available on the web site
[EMS Meeting of Presidents 2018 Maynooth](#)*

Section A: Preliminaries

Pavel Exner, President of the European Mathematical Society and Chair of the meeting, welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked the organizers very much for the invitation to meet at Maynooth University. A special welcome was given to Steve Buckley and Pauline Mellon, respectively, President and Vice-President of the Irish Mathematical Society. The President also thanked the Irish Mathematical Society for the invitation to meet at Maynooth University and continued to explain the agenda.

Section B: Introductions

1. Everybody present introduced themselves in a tour de table, saying which Society they represented at the meeting.
2. Steve Buckley welcomed the Presidents of the EMS member societies to Maynooth University and together with Pauline Mellon presented* a report on the Irish Mathematical Society.

Section C: The European Mathematical Society

1. The Chair gave his report as President of the EMS. After a few words about the political situation in the world, the President recalled the EMS policy that while the EMS is not a political institution and we cannot publicly adhere to all relevant public protests, we have to speak out when life of mathematicians is in danger and care about keeping the mathematical community together. In line with this policy, the EMS publicized the petition for Turkey on its webpage.
He continued his report by looking ahead to important events such as the EMS Council in Prague in June, ICM 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, ICIAM 2019 in Valencia, ECM 2020 in Portorož, Slovenia, and the decision for ICM 2022. In the past months the Executive Committee discussed the members of the Scientific and Prize Committees for 8ECM and have finalized the selection

process (27 months before the start of 8ECM). After the installation of the Prize Committee, the next task of the Executive Committee will be the call for nominations for the EMS Prizes. He recalled that the 2016 Council in Berlin modified Rule 30 of the By-Laws to make it more attractive for young mathematicians to become a member of the EMS and asked the Presidents of the member societies to convey this information to their members. On the other end of the age scale, the Executive Committee is preparing a proposal for the 2018 Council in Prague for Life Time Membership.

An active campaign to attract new institutional members was successful with four new members (University of Lisbon, Mathematical Institute of Oxford, and the Mathematics Departments of Pavia and Pisa). Again, the Chair asked for the help of the Presidents of the member society to spread this information and he referred to the new Flyer* of the EMS. The Chair continued to ask the Presidents for help with the active recruitment of book reviewers for the book section on the EMS webpage and to inform Vicente Muñoz about possible candidates.

He finally recalled that members of the EMS have special benefits at [MathHire](#), a site to find and advertise jobs for mathematics supported by the EMS. This Fall the EMS will evaluate the cooperation with MathHire and any feedback from the member societies can be send to Vicente Muñoz. He concluded his President's report with some recent developments regarding the EMS Publishing House. **Action All**

2. The Chair recalled that the Czech Academy of Sciences will host the EMS Council 2018 on June 23-24, 2018. At Council, successors of the current President and one current Vice-President will be elected, the present Secretary and Treasurer can be elected for a second-term, and one new member-at-large will be elected.
3. The Chair reported on the wide range of scientific activities of the Society, and in particular encouraged member societies to prepare proposals for scientific activities, such as Joint Mathematical Weekends and Summer Schools. See the [call for proposals](#). The Chair also recalled the collaboration agreements with the mathematical societies of Australia, China and Japan, and informed the Presidents about the idea to organize a joint Euro-Pacific meeting, similar in spirit to the joint meetings with AMS organized by national societies in the past.
4. The Chair started by reminding the Presidents that the Standing Committees are the working body of the EMS. The Chair recalled the substantial renewal in the members of the Standing Committees and went over the committees one by one. With respect to the Applied Mathematics Committee, the President asked attention for H2020 calls in which Mathematics can play a role and referred to the webpage of [EU-MATHS-IN](#) for further information. Regarding CDC donations that EMS members can make to support mathematics in developing countries, there is now a link on the homepage of the EMS to a specific call for CDC donations with bank account details. This makes it possible that EMS members and visitors of the website can support the work of CDC financially separately from the request for an annual donation in combination with membership renewal. He also proposed that national societies when collecting the EMS individual member dues add a CDC donation option to their procedures. In conclusion, the Chair asked the Presidents of the member societies for help regarding the possible establishment of a special standing committee for young mathematicians. What would the remit be of such a committee and who should we nominate to become committee members of this new committee? Please

send your ideas and suggestions to the President of the EMS. The LMA responded that they do have an early career research committee specifically aimed at young researchers. Finally, the President conveyed the request from the Chair of the Raising Public Awareness committee (RPA) for help. Could the Presidents of the national member societies each identify a contact person for public awareness activities and send this information to Roberto Natalini the Chair of RPA. **Action All**

5. The Chair reported on the latest developments regarding Horizon 2020 and ERC. He also informed the Presidents that the EMS terminated its membership to Initiative Science Europe (ISE).

Section D: Presentations

1. Barbara Kaltenbacher presented* a report on the work of the Austrian Mathematical Society.
2. Stanislav Smirnov presented* a report on the work of the Saint Petersburg Mathematical Society.
3. Jorge Buesco presented* a report on the work of the Portuguese Mathematical Society.
4. Caroline Series presented* a report on the work of the European Women in Mathematics.
5. Thierry Horsin presented* a report on the work of Société de Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles (SMAI).
6. Stéphane Seuret presented* a report on the work of the Société Mathématique de France.
7. Catalin Gherghe presented* a short movie on the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Romania. The IMO started in 1959 in Romania and [IMO 2018](#) is the fifty-ninth edition with more than 2000 youngsters participating.
8. Klavdija Kutnar presented* an update on the progress of the organization of the 8th ECM to be held in Portorož, Slovenia, from July 5 till July 11, 2020. She asked special attention for the call for Satellite Conferences and Mini Symposia on the webpage of [8ECM](#).
9. Carlos Vázquez presented* a report on the ICIAM 2019 in Valencia, Spain.

Section E: Discussion

After a short introduction by the Chair, the Presidents had an informal discussion about the relation between the national societies and the EMS. A number of items were discussed regarding what should be done at a national level and what should be done at a European level and how can we learn from each other and strengthen each other. The decreasing level of mathematical high school education is also a European problem and here the EMS can serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices. Political lobbying is important at both the national and the European level. We should use EMS E-news and all other appropriate communication channels to exchange news and information between the national societies and the EMS. During the discussion it was suggested that an idea to enhance communication between the national societies and the EMS would be to include presentations from the national societies in the EMS Newsletter. Regarding this point, the President conveyed a request from the Editor-in-Chief of

the EMS Newsletter, Valentin Zagrebnov, that he would be happy to receive proposals for articles, new ideas, etc., and suggested to write directly to Valentin Zagrebnov. Another suggestion that came from the discussion, is to involve national societies to facilitate lectures by EMS Prize winners, for example by using the format as used for EMS Lecturers or by involving the ERCOM centers or by using the format as used for Diderot meetings, but one has to be sure that there will be an audience. Although integration of lectures by the EMS Prize winners in the ECM program is often a burden for the local organizers it does guarantee that there is an audience during ECM, but it is worthwhile to involve the EMS Prize winners in the activities organized by the national societies.

The Presidents continued to discuss problems and challenges ranging from the relation between Mathematics and Computer Science to life-long learning of mathematics teachers in Germany and France, and project-oriented teaching. In September 2018 there will be a national meeting with representatives of the local and national government and mathematicians to have an open discussion on the catalogue describing the high school mathematics curriculum in Germany.

Section F: Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Section G: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Berlin and further details will follow later in the year.

Section H: Closing

On behalf of all the participants, the Chair thanked the Irish Mathematical Society and, in particular, Steve Buckley for the excellent organization of the meeting and Maynooth University for their warm welcome at the beautiful campus.