

A Message from the President

Volker Mehrmann, President of the EMS



Dear members of the EMS,

It is not easy to address you in these strange times. However, I am sure that science will find a way of dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. As in most countries, university life is still on hold or online, teachers and students have had to adapt to different ways of learning, and even the EMS is managing to run its organisation with modern tools. Due to the cancellation of the in-person Bled council meeting, it was held online on Saturday, 4 July 2020.

The council elected Jorge Buescu as new vice president and Jiří Rákosník as new secretary. New executive members are Frédéric Hélein, Barbara Kaltenbacher, Luis Narváez Macarro and Susanna Terracini. Beatrice Pelloni was reelected for a second term. I look forward to working with the new team.

My special thanks go to vice president Armen Sergeev, secretary Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel and the EC members Nicola Fusco, Stefan Jackowski and Vicente Muñoz, who leave their positions at the end of 2020, for their hard work for the society and their active participation in the executive committee. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

My thanks also go to the editor of the Newsletter, Valentin Zagrebnov, whose term ended in July 2020, for his great work, and to his successor Fernando Manuel Pestana da Costa for his willingness to take over.

Fernando is heading the transition of the Newsletter to the new format of an “EMS Magazine”.

Another important decision by the council was the selection of the venue of the 9ECM. While the 8ECM in Portorož is still ahead of us and is planned for 20–26 June 2021, the council chose Sevilla for 2024, and we are looking forward to two great congresses in 2021 and 2024.

We plan to continue the discussions about the future of the EMS at a presidents meeting which hopefully (who knows these days) will take place as a personal meeting in Edinburgh on 30 October 2020. Topics will include the formation of activity groups, the organisation of specialised meetings and the start of a young academy.



On 29 October 2020 we are planning a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the EMS with a one-day meeting. The programme will be posted soon. In view of the anniversary, thanks to the great effort of vice president Betül Tanbay, a brochure was created that covers the past, the present and the future of the EMS.

I wish you all the best, in particular good health, and hope to meet many of you soon in Edinburgh.