



THE EUROPEAN
MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

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Prof. Shigefumi Mori
IMU President
RIMS, Kyoto University
Kyoto 606-01, Japan

Dear Professor Mori,

I write to you on behalf of the European Mathematical Society. The matter in which I am approaching you concerns the French intention, announced during the General Assembly of the IMU held in Gyeongju in August last year, to make a bid for the organization of the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2022 in Paris, preceded by the General Assembly in Strassbourg.

Europe is the birthplace of the ICMs and the modern mathematics would not be what it is now without the roots in our continent. We are aware that the world is opening and becoming more connected and we appreciated that the last two congresses and the forthcoming one gave a boost to developments of mathematics in places representing a future promise, but we also think it would be appropriate if the congress returns after a sixteen year break to our continent.

The virtues of French mathematics need no recommendation, of course, to say nothing of the symbolism of returning, for the first time after 122 years, to the place where Hilbert stated his list of problems. Our French colleagues have already formed a preparatory committee of people who are both excellent mathematicians and reliable organizers. However, we see the importance of the bid far beyond the national borders. Europe is and will be a patchwork, but its unity in diversity was always the source of its strength. We are convinced that our French colleagues make their proposal in the name of the whole European mathematical community. The EMS endorses it and if it will be successful, as we hope, we will do our best to contribute to making the congress a memorable event indeed.

With best regards I remain

Sincerely yours

Pavel Exner