BERNOULLI SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY THEORY.

Minutes of the meeting of the European Regional Committee, Funchal, Portugal, 14 August 2001.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
   PRESENT: Michael Sørensen (Chair), Marie Huskova (Programme Coordinator), Arnoldo Frigessi (Past Programme Coordinator), Marc Aerts, Anthony Davison (for David Firth), Roland Fried (for Ursula Gather), Aad van der Vaart.
   GUESTS: Martin Janzura (organizer of the 24th EMS), Claudia Klüppelberg (The SemStat Steering Group), Dinis Pestana (organizer of the 23rd EMS), Zuzana Praskova (organizer of the 24th EMS).

2. **Minutes of the meeting in Guanajuato (19 May 2000).**
   Accepted.

3. **Matters arising from these minutes, not otherwise covered by the agenda.**
   None.

4. **Appointment of the chairperson for 2002 – 2004.**
   Claudia Klüppelberg (Germany) was appointed for the Chair of the ERC for the term 2002 – 2004.

5. **Nomination of members to replace those retiring in 2002.**
   Principles for nominating the members of the ERC were discussed. Since 16 persons cannot cover all countries in Europe, and since a larger committee would not be practical, members of the ERC must in some cases be responsible not only for the contact between the ERC and their own country, but also neighbouring countries. It was considered desirable to have as geographically broad a representation in the ERC as possible.

   Based on these considerations the following persons were nominated to replace those retiring from the ERC in 2002 (the final list was decided on by email consultations after the meeting): Stephen P. Brooks (UK), Alexander Bulinski (Russia), Petros Dellaportas (Greece), Ingrid K. Glad (Norway), Adam Jakubowski (Poland), Tonu Kollo (Estonia), Catherine Laredo (France), and Daniel Peña (Spain).

6. **Forthcoming meetings.**

   (i) *The 23rd European Meeting of Statisticians.* Dinis Pestana reported that the 23rd EMS was going according to plan. He mentioned that the custom of waiving the registration fee for invited speakers and session organizers had been a considerable financial burden that made the registration fee for other participants unnecessarily high. He also expressed the view that future organizers should consider following him in producing a collection of extended abstracts of the EMS lectures. The ERC is grateful to him and his collaborators as well as to the programme committee and its Chairman Anthony Davison for the wonderful job they have all done in organizing a successful EMS.

   (ii) *The 12th European Young Statisticians Meeting.* The 12th EYSM will take place in Janska Dolina, Slovakia in the days September 4 - 8, 2001. The organizer, Radoslav Harman, had informed the ERC that preparations were going well, except that it had been almost impossible to find sponsors for the meeting. Only the ISI Development Fund had supported a few participants, which had been a considerable help. It had been difficult to find participants from certain countries. Future EYSM organisers should be informed that the ERC will be happy to assist them in case of similar problems. The ERC agreed that the EYSMs should be broadly advertised, for instance in Bernoulli News.

(iii) *Séminaire Européen de Statistique.* During the past year the ERC has in email consultations appointed Aad van der Vaart as a member and Bärbel Finkenstädt as Chair of the SemStat Steering Group. A new Chairperson was needed because Claudia Klüppelberg wanted to end her term at the post. She has agreed to continue as a member of the Steering Group until a suitable replacement has been found. During her tern as SemStat Chair Claudia has done a fantastic job and an enormous amount of work, for which the ERC is deeply grateful. It was decided to further appoint Gestine Reinert for the Steering Group. Claudia Klüppelberg reported that preparations for the next SemStat are going well. The course will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden in the period December 10 - 15, 2001. The subject will be Extreme Value Theory and Applications, and the main lecturers will be Sid Resnick, Thomas Mikosch, Claudia Klüppelberg and Richard Smith.

(iv) *The 24th European Meeting of Statisticians.* The 24th EMS will take place August 19 - 23, 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting will be joint with the Prague Conference on Information Theory, Statistical Decision Functions, and Random Processes. During the past year the ERC has in email consultations appointed Chris Rogers to the programme committee in stead of Peter Donnelly and Søren Johansen, who did not want to become members of the committee. The organizer Martin Janzura gave details about the preparations that are going according to plan. The programme coordinator, Marie Huskova, reported that the programme is now in place not least thanks to the dedicated and able work of the Chair of the programme committee, Thomas Mikosch. There will be two satellite meetings: 2nd International Workshop on Perspectives in Modern Statistical Inference, Brno (Czech Republic), August 14-17, 2002, and International Workshop on Statistics in Genetics, Munich (Germany), August 14-16, 2002.

(v) *The 25th European Meeting of Statisticians.* In 2003 the 54th ISI Session will be held in Berlin, and the 6th World Congress of the Bernoulli Society will be held in 2004, perhaps in Jerusalem. It was therefore decided that the 25th EMS will be held in 2005. A venue must be found within the next year.

7. The Constitution of the European Regional Committee of the Bernoulli Society.

After the Bernoulli Society has prepared new statutes, it is necessary that the ERC goes through its constitution to ensure that it is in accordance with the new BS statutes. This is a good occasion to check whether there are points that need to be brought up to date. It was proposed that a way of involving the ERC members more actively in the work of the committee might be that three members were made responsible for the EMSs, the EYMSs, and the SemStats, respectively. It was also proposed that the ERC might take a more active role towards the outside world, for instance by preparing position papers in connection with EU research policy. The ERC found that also the EMS and the SemStat scenarios should be up-dated. Drafts of new versions of the constitution and the EMS scenario will be prepared by Michael Sørensen and of the SemStat scenario by Claudia Klüppelberg. These drafts will be discussed at the ERC meeting in 2002.

8. Collaboration with the European Mathematical Society.

On 4-6 May 2001 the European Mathematical Society held a workshop on “Applied Mathematics in Europe” in Berlingen, Switzerland. The ERC was represented by Jef Teugels. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen applied mathematics in the

European Mathematical Society. During the meeting it was proposed that the European Mathematical Society and the Bernoulli Society search for ways of collaborating. After the workshop Michael Sørensen met with the Vice-president of the European Mathematical Society, Bodil Branner, for further discussions during which it became clear that the main possibility for collaboration is the organisation of joint meetings. At its meeting in 1995 the ERC decided to establish formal contacts with the European Mathematical Society for future collaboration. Most ERC members felt that collaboration is still a good idea and that a focussed joint meeting for instance in a year where there is no EMS would be the best way to go. Possible subjects for such meetings would be areas where both statistical methods and methods from other branches of mathematics are fruitfully applied, for instance bioinformatics and telecommunication.

9. Any other Business.
The ERC nominated the programme coordinator, Marie Huskova, to the Bernoulli Society Programme Coordinating Committee.