BERNOULLI SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY THEORY.

Minutes of the meeting of the European Regional Committee, Prague, August 20 and 22, 2002.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

   PRESENT: Michael Sørensen (Chair), Marie Huskova (Programme Coordinator), Arnoldo Frigessi (Past Programme Coordinator), Enno Mammen (Scientific Secretary of the Bernoulli Society), Tamas Mori, Mihael Perman, Jan Mielniczuk (for Jacek Koronacki), Noel Veraverbeke (for Marc Aerts).

   GUESTS: Martin Janzura (Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 24th EMS), Claudia Klüppelberg (incoming Chair and representative of the SemStat Steering Group), Thomas Mikosch (Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for the 24th EMS), Zuzana Praskova (member of the Local Organizing Committee for the 24th EMS), and Gesine Reinert (SemStat Steering Group).

2. **Minutes of the meeting in Funchal (August 14, 2001).**

   Accepted.

3. **Matters arising from these minutes, not otherwise covered by the agenda.**

   None.

4. **Election of the Programme Coordinator for 2002-2004.**

   Marie Huskova (Czech Republic) was elected for the term 2002 – 2004.

5. **Election of ERC members to replace those retiring in 2002.**

   Since the number of candidates equaled the number of vacancies, the following candidates were declared elected: 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). The Chairman of the ERC thanked the retiring ERC members David Firth, Arnoldo Frigessi, Ursula Gather, Wenceslao Gonzales-Manteiga, Lars Holst, Pascal Massart, Yakov Nikitin, and Tina Rydberg for their work for the Bernoulli Society.

6. **Meetings during the past year.**

   (i) *The 12th European Young Statisticians Meeting.* The 12th EYSM took place in Janska Dolina, Slovakia in the days September 4 - 8, 2001. The meeting had 38 participants from 23 countries. The ERC is grateful to the Local Organizing Committee chaired by Radoslav Harman for their efforts. Some of the participants were supported by the ISI Development Fund.

   (ii) *Séminaire Européen de Statistique.* A course on Extreme Value Theory and Applications was held in Gothenburg, Sweden in the period December 10 - 16, 2001. The lecturers were Sid Resnick, Thomas Mikosch, Claudia Klüppelberg, Richard Smith, Stuart Coles, Anne-Laure Fourgères, and Paul Embrechts. The organizers of the meeting were Holger Rootzén, Bärbel Finkenstädt, Johan Segers and Jaques de Maré. The ERC is grateful to the organizers and the lecturers for their work. The course was funded by the European Commission through the TMR research training network "Statistical and Computational Methods for the Analysis of Spatial Data", the Stochastic Centre in Gothenburg, the Swedish Institute of Applied Mathematics, the Swedish Technical Sciences Research Council, the Swedish Natural Sciences Research Council and Semstat.

(iii) *The 24th European Meeting of Statisticians.* The 24th EMS took place in the days August 19 - 23, 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting was joint with the Prague Conference on Information Theory, Statistical Decision Functions, and Random Processes. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Martin Janzura, reported that in spite of the enormous problems caused by the flooding of Prague in the week before the meeting, the 24th EMS was going almost according to plan. Only relatively few participants had canceled their participation. The Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee, Thomas Mikosch, reported that the invited programme had been affected to only a minor degree by cancellations. The ERC is grateful to Martin Janzura and the Local Organizing Committee for arranging an unusually well-organized EMS under extremely difficult conditions. The ERC is similarly grateful to the Scientific Programme Committee and in particular to its Chair Thomas Mikosch for his dedicated and able work. Two satellite meetings were held: 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. The meeting was supported financially by the European Commission through the Improving Human Potential Programme (High-Level Scientific Conferences) with the amount of 50.000 euro to contribute to the costs of participation for young researchers from the European Union and its associated states.

7. Forthcoming meetings.

(i) *The 13th European Young Statisticians Meeting.* The 13th EYSM will take place in Ovronnaz, Switzerland in the days September 21 - 26, 2003. The members of the Local Organizing Committee are Reinhard Furrer, Thomas Gsponer, Baptiste Fournier and Eva Restle. The members of the ERC expressed their willingness to assist in finding suitable participants in their geographical region. Some concern was expressed that participation in the EYSMs has become too expensive for Eastern European young researchers.

(ii) *Séminaire Européen de Statistique.* Claudia Klüppelberg expressed that she wished to end her term as member of the SemStat Steering Group. The ERC thanked her for the enormous work she has done for SemStat and elected Michael Sørensen to replace her as member of the Steering Group. Gesine Reinert reported that the next Séminaire Européen de Statistique will be held in the Spring or Summer of 2004. The theme will be spatial-temporal processes and their statistics. The venue has not been decided yet.

(iii) *The 25th European Meeting of Statisticians.* The 25th EMS will be held in Oslo in 2005. The meeting will be organized jointly by the Norwegian Computing Centre and the University of Oslo. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee is Arnoldo Frigessi, and the Deputy Chairman is Nils Lid Hjort.

(iv) *EU funding.* The European Mathematical Society has from its sources in the European Commission heard rumors that the 6th Framework Programme will enable umbrella proposals for more than one series of meetings. It was therefore decided to form a small ad hoc committee of about three persons to follow the development and, if the possibility arises, to write a proposal that the European Commission supports all meetings of the ERC: the EMSs, the EYSMs and the SemStats. Arnoldo Frigessi and Michael Sørensen were appointed for the committee, and it is hoped that one of the new ERC members with experience in writing EU proposals will join the committee too.

8. **The Constitution of the European Regional Committee.**

   Michael Sørensen had prepared a draft of a new version of the Constitution which had been sent to all ERC members before the meeting. The new version was approved. Apart from minor modifications, partly in response to the new statutes of the Bernoulli Society, the main change is the creation of a ERC Conference Committee with the purpose to assist the Programme Coordinator. It was decided to change the name of the document from Constitution to Statutes.

9. **The scenario for the arrangement of the European Meetings of Statisticians.**

   Michael Sørensen had prepared a draft of a new version of the Scenario which had been sent to all ERC members before the meeting. The draft was discussed in detail, and with a number of further changes suggested during the meeting the new version was approved. Apart from a number of natural up-dates caused e.g. be the availability of e-mail, the main changes are that the new version of the scenario enables and encourages a broader and larger invited programme than has so far been the case, that from now on the meetings will be held biennially, and that the tradition of fairly modest circumstances has been emphasized more strongly.

10. **The scenario for the arrangement of the Séminaires Européens de Statistiques.**

    Claudia Klüppelberg had prepared a revised version of the scenario for the arrangement of the Séminaires Européens de Statistiques. The new version was approved apart from the list of senior statisticians, which should be updated.

11. **Any other Business.**

    None.