



President  
Hungarian Academy of Science

Prof. Dr. László Lovász

Dear Prof. Lovasz,

the European Mathematical Society (EMS) expresses strong concerns about the announced political and fiscal changes for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences by the Government of Hungary.

Since we are a mathematical society, we comment only on the funding for mathematical research. The mathematical research carried out by Mathematicians in the Hungarian Academy of science is excellent and on the highest level internationally.

EMS expresses its strong hope that changes in the financing system will not diminish the support for basic mathematical research, or restrict the freedom of mathematicians on choosing their research topics. Restricting or reducing such basic (bottom-up) funding may have an irreversible effect on the mathematical landscape in Hungary, potentially even leading to an academic brain drain, as it has been seen often in the last 30 years.

We call upon the Government of Hungary to follow the principle that is adopted in almost all countries of the European Union, that decisions about the funding of specific scientific research projects/ directions should be made by scientists and not lawmakers, and that the academic freedom of researchers is respected.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Volker Mehrmann  
President  
European Mathematical Society <http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/>