

Copenhagen 25 March 2024

Mr. Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, Engineer Nicolás Posse
c.c. Mr. President of CONICET, Dr. Daniel Salamone
c.c. Members of the Board of Directors of CONICET

I am writing as President of the European Mathematical Society (EMS) to express on behalf of the EMS our shock and concern on hearing of the decisions taken by the Argentinian Government in regard to the severe reduction of funding and support for Science in Argentina.

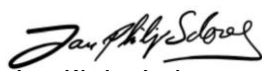
The EMS is the learned society for mathematicians throughout Europe. It promotes the development of all aspects of mathematics in Europe, in particular mathematical research, relations of mathematics to society, relations to European institutions, and mathematics education. The EMS represents around 60 national mathematical societies in Europe and 50 mathematical research centres and departments, as well as 3000 individuals. As such we speak not only with authority, but with significant experience of the way in which political decisions influence the scientific development of countries. Restrictions on scientific funding and enterprise have consequential negative impacts on economic stability and growth.

We are aware of the economic and social difficulties that Argentina faces and we applaud the determination of its people to overcome them fairly and effectively. Situations such as these may require exceptional and painful measures. However, the weakening or dismantling of scientific structures, and especially their human resources, will result in depriving Argentina of one of the most powerful instruments for recovery and future development.

Scientific progress is now almost always an international venture, with communication and exchange being a key. Mathematics in Argentina has achieved a high level thanks to the existence of CONICET and the work it has carried out for decades, and access of mathematicians to research funding. The measures announced by the new Argentinian Government – some already put into practice – worry us enormously and make us fear, if not for the disappearance of CONICET, at least for its irreversible weakening. Removing or reducing systems of financial support will isolate mathematicians and other scientists and create barriers that will take many years to overcome.

As a society of societies and individuals, we urge the Argentinian Government to think again about its current strategy with regard to the Sciences. The EMS stands as a friend to Argentinian science and will endeavour to support it at any opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Jan Philip Solovej

President

European Mathematical Society