Ladies and Gentlemen!

This is already the second occasion that the European Mathematical Society awards prizes to the 10 best young mathematicians. It is a great privilege for me that I can hand over these prizes after the introductory addresses. Hereby we would like to follow the example of the previous congress and the then mayor of Paris. I think that the city of Budapest should definitely support forming such an important tradition. Therefore we were happy to contribute to the financial and moral backing of the prizes.

I do hope that these prizes are not just gestures for the recognition of the talented, but will also inspire young mathematicians to take their increasing share of scientific research and development.

I am confident that scientific conferences promote the rapprochement of cities and nations in the long run. With this belief I wish fruitful work to the Congress and further successes in their professional careers to the prizewinners!

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Address by Arpad Goncz, President of Hungary

Dear Guests, Dear Friends from Abroad and from Hungary!

It is my real pleasure that, on behalf of the European Mathematical Society and with the support of the European Community, our country could organize the Second European Congress of Mathematicians.

This honour is certainly due to the international prestige of Hungarian mathematics. The Hungarian team has always finished among the top ten of the International Mathematical Olympiads – our youngsters contribute to the great reputation of the Hungarian mathematics, but their widely acknowledged results and their success are due – to a considerable extent – to the János Bolyai Mathematical Society. Under this name the Society is “only” 50 years old, but its predecessor, the Mathematical and Physical Society, was founded in 1891, and its goals and course were set by eminent physicists and mathematicians. These goals, to integrate the scientific achievements and education, and to find and help the gifted students by competitions, periodicals, conferences have not changed since. We are happy to see that these Hungarian ideas and methods flourish in harmony with the European efforts. Our achievements show that.

I have learned from the program of the congress, that mathematical meetings fill the period of time from mid-July to the end of August. Beside the Congress in Budapest, the centerpoint of the series of these scientific events, conferences on various topics are organized in various places: Austria, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, and in Szeged, Miskolc, Eger, just to mention a few of them. Not knowing if the representatives of these events are present here in this session, I ask you to forward my greeting words to them as well.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to all the young mathematicians participating in this Congress and I greet with all respect the eminent scientists, who will be giving lectures and popularizing mathematics at this Congress. I express my gratitude to those who, with incessant enthusiasm, teach our students and to those