who help and organize the competitions and the scientific meetings. Research, education, caring for the gifted are all united in an exemplary manner in these meetings.

As a private person and a one-time instructor I look with a genuine envy at the masters, who in the course of their lectures find followers from the above-average, gifted and motivated pupils, since I have come to realize that this is the first step toward immortality.

With the warmest regards

Arpad Goncz

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Address of Gyula O.H. Katona, Chairman of the Organizing Committee to the Congress

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I welcome you to the Second European Congress of Mathematics.

As the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, it is my privilege to introduce the members of the platform party: Gábor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest, Zoltán Szabó, Vice-Minister of Culture and Education, Dr. Hans Beck, Head of Delegation, European Commission in Hungary, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Mathematical Society, Professor László Márki, Vice-President of the European Mathematical Society, Professor Ákos Császár, President of the Division of Mathematics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Professor Pál Révész, President of the János Bolyai Mathematical Society, László Lovász, Chairman of the Prize Committee and Tamás Székely, representing the Motorola Company.

Let me say a few words on behalf of the Organizers.

Four years ago a very important initiative was started in France. The first European Congress of Mathematics was organized in Paris in 1992. It is a great privilege for Hungarian Mathematics that we are the organizers of the second item of the sequence of these.

It was a long and difficult work. We could not have succeeded without the extensive help of the European Mathematical Society, the European Union, the City of Budapest and the different Hungarian government organizations, not to mention the very many Hungarian enthusiasts. Let me express our profound gratitude to all the above mentioned people and organizations.

But we are also extremely grateful to you, who have come to this celebration of European Mathematics. Yes, this is indeed a celebration, but also a demonstration; a demonstration of the vital unity of mathematical life in Europe.

When preparing this short speech, it occurred to me for a second that I could say a welcoming sentence in each European language. Unfortunately, as time is pressing, this would take too long. So, perhaps I could do it in the major languages, only. But I was not able to decide what the major languages were. Finally I came to the conclusion that there is no need for that, we have a common language, which
may be obscure to many outsiders, but for us this is the language of mathematics. This is sufficient for us . . . and necessary, too.

So I would like to wish you a happy mathematical experience. I hope that you will learn many deep theories, that you will prove exciting theorems and pose intriguing conjectures.

Now may I introduce another language which is, in some way, related to our own, the language of music. The Sonatone Pannoniae brass ensemble will perform both classical and preclassical compositions.

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