



Dear EATCS members,

I hope my letter finds you and your family safe and in good health.

First of all, let me wish you a very happy 2022. I hope that this will be a healthy and fantastic year for all of us, full of great research advances, exciting conferences and workshops. I look forward to working together with all of you in order to continue promoting the development of theoretical computer science.

We do not know yet what to expect from this year, but I am optimistically looking forward to 2022. While the coronavirus pandemic will still have a major impact on our lives and our scientific activities, I hope that we are slowly getting back to a safe and healthy environment. Therefore I am looking forward to see not only more fantastic research, but also I hope to see more scientific activities in the community, and even if some of them still focusing on online participation, but many involving meetings and conferences.

I am especially looking forward to attending the 49th EATCS International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2022), the EATCS flagship conference that will be held in Paris, France, July 4-8, 2022 (<https://icalp2022.irif.fr/>). After two years of running ICALP fully online, in 2022 the event will be organized in a hybrid fashion: while we expect most of participants to attend the conference in person, online participation will be made possible. The PC chairs are David Woodruff



(track A) and Mikołaj Bojańczyk (track B), and the conference chair is Thomas Colcombet. ICALP 2022 will feature six fantastic invited speakers: Albert Atserias (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya), Constantinos Daskalakis (MIT), Leslie Ann Goldberg (Oxford), Madhu Sudan (Harvard, USA), Stéphan Thomassé (l'Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon), and Santosh Vempala (Georgia Tech). I hope that many of you have submitted your best work to ICALP 2022 and I expect to see a great scientific program, to be selected by the PC in mid April. As usual, ICALP will be preceded by a series of workshops, which will take place on July 4.

ICALP 2022 will be the occasion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both the first ICALP and of EATCS - with arguably, year 1972 marking the birth of European theoretical computer science. The first ICALP conference was organized by Maurice Nivat in July 1972 in Rocquencourt, Paris. It is fascinating to see now the 45 papers published at ICALP 1972 (not all in English, with a few papers in German and over a dozen in French!), with so different focus than what we see nowadays: 23 papers on automata and formal languages, 12 in theory of programming, and 11 in computational complexity. As for EATCS, the efforts to establish a Europe-centered scientific organization in Theoretical Computer Science led to the submission to EEC and to Belgian authorities of legal documents to create EATCS on June 24, 1972; this is the official date of the constitution of EATCS (or as it was then officially called Association Européenne d'Informatique Théorique (AEIT), or in



English, European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)). A royal decree by the King of Belgium from September 4, 1972 officially created EATCS and approved its statute. The named founders of EATCS were: Giorgio Ausiello (Italy), Jaco de Bakker (The Netherlands), Maurice Nivat (France), Mike Paterson (UK), Manfred Paul (Federal Republic of Germany), Michel Sintzoff (Belgium), and Leo Verbeek (The Netherlands). I hope to see many of you joining us in these celebrations of the 50th anniversaries of ICALP and of EATCS during the ICALP 2022 conference in Paris!

Also, please allow me to remind you about three EATCS affiliated conferences that will take place in summer and fall this year: the 47th International Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science (MFCS 2022 in Vienna, <https://www.ac.tuwien.ac.at/mfcs2022/> - also celebrating its 50th anniversary!), the 30th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA 2022), and the 35th International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC 2022).

But there will be some more exciting theory conferences taking place in the summer, where I hope to see strong in-person attendance. The 54th ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC 2022, <http://acm-stoc.org/stoc2022/>) will be held this year in Europe, in Rome, Italy, June 20-24, 2022. Another flagship theory conference, the 37th Annual ACM/IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science (LICS, <https://lics.siglog.org/lics22/>) will be held this year at the Technion in Haifa, Israel, August 2-5, 2022, as part of the Federated Logic Conference (FLOC 2022).



I expect all these conferences to bring a large in-person attendance and to stimulate fantastic research advances in theory.

As usual, let me close this letter by reminding you that you are always most welcome to send me your comments, criticisms and suggestions for improving the impact of the EATCS on the Theoretical Computer Science community at president@eatcs.org. We will consider all your suggestions and criticisms carefully.

I look forward to seeing many of you around, at ICALP in Paris, or during other conferences or workshops that I hope to attend this spring and summer and fall, or maybe only online, and to discussing ways of improving the impact of the EATCS within the theoretical computer science community.

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February 2022