



Report for the 88th FIDE Congress in Antalya, Turkey

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Delegates,

Here is our main information:

Tbilisi, 18 August 2017

European Chess Union organized the European Individual Championships 2017 in Minsk, Belarus and Riga, Latvia with 100,000 euros and 75,000 euros net prize fund respectively. More important is that ECU has secured the organisers and the sponsorship of the European Individual Championships Open and women and for the next year, 2018, in Georgia and Slovakia.

The European Women Rapid & Blitz Championships has started to be organized again, and this year will be organized from 21st to 23rd of October 2017, under prestigious conditions, in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The financial results of the year 2016 shows a further improvement in ECU finance and funds and an important raise of development and CIS actions of the European Chess Union. The ECU reserves funds have been almost doubled from the moment the new administration was elected in August 2014.

ECU supports the European Small Nations Teams Championship, which this year will be held in November in Andorra. ECU organized successfully with the Georgian Chess Federation the "1st ECU Chess in School Conference" from 24th to 27th October 2016 in Batumi, parallel with the FIDE World Cadets Championship 2016 while more CIS projects are supported in Europe.

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION

Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333 Hunenberg See, Switzerland
Email: ecuoffice2014@gmail.com

New innovative events will be launched in 2017 among them, the 1st European Chess Corporate Championship in November in Paris France and the 1st School Internet Team Chess Championship.

FIDE Presidential Board, Executive Board and General Assembly had been informed last year for the serious matter with the alleged ECU invoices and transactions to unknown bank account and offshore companies established in the Delaware of the United States.

ECU General Assembly 2016, taking in account a number of serious irregularities and denial of any co-operation by the Bulgarian Chess Federation, expelled the Bulgarian Chess Federation from ECU. Bulgarian Chess Federation appealed to CAS against the decision of the European Chess Union.

CAS rejected with a sound decision the appeal of the Bulgarian Chess Federation.

The CAS concluded among other important findings and conclusions:

"...The Panel further considers that in the circumstances in which it found itself the ECU Board acted with commendable diligence and speed in taking active steps to protect the interests of the organisation and of all its members."

Following the decision of CAS, the Bulgarian Ministry of Youth and Sports invited FIDE and ECU in Sofia for a meeting and a joint Press conference. During the meeting and the press conference the Bulgarian state officials presented documents, which indicate that only, the financial damage of the Bulgarian state, from the organised criminal activity, exceeds the 1million euros.

It was agreed that since the proven, till now, financial damage concern the Bulgarian state, the Bulgarian police and prosecutors to be asked to speed their investigation in order to bring full light in the case and identify all the individuals involved, abusing the funds.

Parallel ECU has forwarded all the new material to the FIDE Ethics Commission, which investigates the case from the Baku FIDE GA and decision. The outcome of FIDE Ethics decision as also the Bulgarian investigation authorities will be crucial for any future ECU decisions since we are in front of the biggest fraud in the chess history and persons who had leading or supportive role or in a "criminal enterprise" may still operate within FIDE members federations.

Sincerely,
Zurab Azmaiparashvili
European Chess Union President

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION

Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333 Hunenberg See, Switzerland
Email: ecuoffice2014@gmail.com