

## **Athens, 29-07-2008**

FIDE has today opened the bidding procedure for each tournament of the 2009-2010 Women's Grand-Prix. The respective regulations have also been published on the FIDE website.

The Women's Grand Prix will be a series of six tournaments held over two years (2009-2010) in leading world cities and 18 top world players will be selected to compete in these tournaments. Each tournament will have 12 players playing over a schedule of seventeen days. Each player agrees and will contract to participate in exactly 4 of these tournaments.

The months allocated for the organisation of the Women's Grand Prix tournaments are March, June and September of each respective year. Offers to host and contract three tournaments over the next six years (i.e. three cycles - for 2009/10, 2011/12 and 2013/14) will be given preference.

The budget cost for one Women's Grand Prix tournament is estimated at around 175,000 euros. A detailed budget may be obtained from the FIDE office.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 the bidding procedure shall be closed.

### **A potential organiser has to follow this procedure:**

Each proposal shall be delivered in a sealed envelope to the FIDE Secretariat in Athens before the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008, 15:00 GMT. A bank guarantee of 10.000 euros for each tournament shall also be included with each bid. If a bid is successful, the amount of the bank guarantee will be used towards the total budget of each tournament.

Each bidder must indicate clearly the host city and preferred timing for the event in the format: month/year.

When the deadline has expired, the FIDE President or his representative shall open the received envelopes in order to assess the bids.

The FIDE President, after having consulted the World Chess Championship Committee, shall decide which applicant cities shall be chosen according to the criteria of the Grand-Prix regulations. FIDE shall, after the decision is made, announce the successful organisers and the selected venues for each tournament.

FIDE may exercise the right to reject any bid application, however favorable it may be.

No bidder can propose a sponsor which shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).