

OPEN LETTER

20 July, 2023

To Vadym Gutzeit

Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine

Dear Mr Gutzeit,

FIDE World Cup will start on July 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This is one of the most important chess competitions of the year. All of us were glad to learn that the Ukrainian GM **Vasyl Ivanchuk** received a special invitation to participate.

Ivanchuk is a true chess legend, known and loved by fans all over the world, a player who has glorified Ukraine countless times, including two team victories at the Chess Olympiads. For each of us, the opportunity to play with him has always been a cause of special pride and pleasure.

In this regard, it was a significant disappointment for us to learn that the Ministry refuses to grant Mr Ivanchuk a special permit allowing him to leave the country to participate in the World Cup. We believe that his participation and play would bring happiness to many, especially Ukrainians, and we respectfully ask you to review the relevant decision and issue the necessary permission.

SIGNED BY

Magnus Carlsen (Norway), 16th World Champion, No. 1 world rating since 2010

Viswanathan Anand (India), 15th World Champion

Hikaru Nakamura (USA), No. 2 world rating, Fischer World Chess Champion

Fabiano Caruana (USA), No. 3 world rating, World Champion challenger (2018)

Wesley So (USA), No. 8 world rating, former Fischer World Chess Champion

Boris Gelfand (Israel), World Champion challenger (2012)