

## **Relations with International Olympic Committee**

In 2007, all FIDE member federations were asked to supply information that formed part of an answer to a questionnaire of the IOC. They wanted to understand more about the International Federations, to confirm if they should all continue to be recognised by the IOC and to look at the sports in the Olympic programme and see if any new sports should be considered for inclusion. FIDE's recognition was reconfirmed but we were not one of the new sports that were short-listed for closer examination for inclusion as an Olympic sport.

During the SportAccord event in Athens in June this year, a FIDE delegation led by the President, met representatives from the IOC for a debriefing on the questionnaire.

The IOC acknowledged the universality of chess. Although the IOC was concerned that there was a relatively small number of countries that provided medallists in the World Championships, FIDE responded that in the Junior and Youth categories, there was a wider representation and these will provide the future World Champions. IOC pointed out that FIDE does not receive income from the sale of TV rights, which is a major argument for a new sports inclusion in the Olympic programme, but they did acknowledge the important relationship between chess and its promotion through the internet.

The IOC puts great stress on the participation of women in the sport, not only in playing but in the decision making bodies of the International and National Federations. They have a target of 20% of main Board members being female. They also pointed out the need for national federations to be proactive in applying for membership of National Olympic Committees.

Many federations did not send back replies to the questionnaire last year. This reflected in the answers regarding the holding of National Championships. The IOC took the view that federations not holding such events were inactive, although FIDE pointed to the large number of federations that participate with teams in the Olympiads.

It is essential that we have a better response to the next questionnaire that will come in 2011. We need to work much harder if we are to achieve our goals.