



**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES ECHECS FRANCOPHONES**

**87<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress - Baku 2016**

**Proposal which are to be included in the Agenda for 2016 FIDE Executive  
Board**

Mr. President of FIDE, Members of the Executive Board,

**Foreword**

First it is useful to remind everyone that the goal of our association is to gather together individuals from the world over who have in common both chess and the French language. Passion for the game and the language is the link without which they would never have met.

We aim to promote and facilitate utilization of the French language in the chess world by laying the foundations of concrete collaboration within the francophone community, building partnerships, fostering relationships and providing advantages and privileges for our members who are the first beneficiaries.

Our association is composed of the chess federation of states and governments that are a member of the International Organisation of La Francophonie or of entities representing chess players who speak French.

At the end of 2012, when I was elected President of AIDEF as a successor to Nouredine Tabbane, we were 9 members only. Today, thanks to the association's dynamism, we have 39 members, including 33 national federations.

The current list of members is posted on our website:  
<http://aidef.ffecheecs.org/spip.php?article27>

Our Executive Board is composed of the following 8 members :

President: Patrick VAN HOOLANDT - Monaco

1° Vice-president: Mohamed ZOUAOUI - Tunisia (ex-president of the Tunisian federation)

2° Vice-president: Ahmed TALEB MOHAMED - Mauritania (vice-president of the Mauritanian federation)

3° Vice-president: Yves RAKOTOMAHARO - Madagascar (president of the Madagascan federation)

General Secretary: Frederic KOUEVI - Togo (president of the Togolese federation)

Treasurer: Roland AKHRASS - Lebanon (vice-president of the Lebanese federation)

Technical Director: Raymond VAN MELSEN - Belgium (president of the francophone Belgium federation)

International Relations Bernard LABADIE - Canada (president of the Québec chess federation)

It is of the utmost importance to us that our actions be backed by FIDE.

It is also crucial to let it be known that, contrary to general beliefs, the French language will be more and more spoken throughout the world. Ever since the decolonization of Africa, French has become the common language used by most African states. According to a 2014 report by the International Organisation of La Francophonie, there are 274 millions French speaking people in the world and 116 millions more are learning it.

French is the second more taught language after English. More than half (55%) of these Francophones live in Africa. Thanks to demographic trends in Congo, Cameroun and Ivory Coast, in 2050 these numbers should rise to 85% for 750 millions people.

## International Championship of French Speaking Countries

« Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones » is AIDEF major yearly event. Every year members get together in a friendly atmosphere competing to win the title of individual Francophone champion. Seminars and other side events are also organized.

The first one was held in 2013 in Marrakech (Morocco), with Garry Kasparov dropping by to show his support.

Then, in 2014 in Beyrouth, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of FIDE, attended the event bringing along a number of VIP.

All records were broken in Montréal (Québec), July 2015, for the 3rd edition and the highest number of players ever (219) coming from 4 continents, including 11 Grand Masters.

This year, the 4th Rencontres will be held in October, from 23rd to the 30th at the magnificent Palais de l'Europe in Menton (France). Menton is definitely one of the most touristic coastal cities of the Riviera (la côte d'azur), just next to the Italian border and only 7 km from Monte Carlo.

As of today, registrations indicate we could break a new record both in terms of players and of level ( already 9 GM are confirmed).

Acknowledging the upward and dynamic trend followed by AIDEF as well as its growing share in the chess world, his Excellency Kirsan Ilyumzhinov is fully supporting our association. AIDEF would be greatly honoured if FIDE's President and his closest Staff could attend the Closing Ceremony on October 16th 2016 at 4 PM in Menton.

## **AIDEF's Proposal :**

### **Fifth edition in subsaharian Africa in 2017**

Although it is easier to organise this competition in economically better endowed areas, it is AIDEF wish to succeed in creating the technical conditions necessary to hold the 5th event in a subsaharian country in 2017 for the following reasons :

- the majority of francophone nations are in Africa
- such an event never took place in subsaharian Africa
- it is the wish of all our African Members
- African players rarely take part in big francophone tournaments because of airfare costs
- This would be a unique occasion to promote chess in Africa
- « La Francophonie » is very important in these areas therefore medias coverage would be high

All of the above reasons AIDEF is asking FIDE's executive board that a steering Committee or a workgroup be put in place, including management from the African Chess Confederation, presidents from candidates' countries, FIDE and AIDEF's executives willing to get involved.

This workgroup will select the organizing country and will help it thereafter with preparation and organization of the event, making sure all AIDEF rules are followed, helping raise financial support and promoting widely these 5th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones.

Yours faithfully,  
Best regards

Patrick VAN HOOLANDT  
AIDEF's President

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Association déclarée conformément à la loi du 1er Juillet 1901 - **email a.i.d.e.f@aol.fr**