

**88<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress  
Executive Board meeting  
Goynuk, Antalya, Turkey  
13-14 October 2017**

**MINUTES**

**0.1 Obituaries.**

We mourn the passing in the preceding year of friends of FIDE among whom we remember:

Jayaram Jayalalithaa (IND) – FIDE Honorary Member  
Jean Lamothe (HAI)- President of Haiti Chess Federation  
Juan Angel Mas (ARG) - Vice President of Argentina Federation  
Eldo Smart (RSA) - President of Chess South Africa  
Charles T. Kuwaza (ZIM) - President of Zimbabwe Chess Federation  
Hans Berliner (USA) - chess master and programmer  
Joop van Oosterom (NED) - twice Correspondence World Chess champion, chess sponsor  
GM Mark Taimanov (RUS)  
GM Alexander Khasin (RUS)  
GM Anatoly Machulsky (RUS)  
GM Viktor Kupreichik (BLR)  
GM Arthur Bernard Bisguier (USA)  
IM Samuel Schweber (ARG)  
IM Cristina Adela Foisor (ROU)  
IM Nikolay Minev (USA)  
IM Stefano Tatai (ITA)  
GM William Lombardy (USA)  
Massimiliano Maccapani (SMR)

**0.2. Roll-call.**

Executive Director N. Freeman made a roll-call and the quorum was established.

**0.3. Welcome of Mrs. Tulay**

Vice President of FIDE, President of the Turkish Chess Federation G. Tulay welcomed the Executive Board members and all the Congress participants:

On behalf of Turkish Chess Federation, I would like to welcome and sincerely greet all of you.

I would like to mention that we are very happy to host the FIDE Congress and you are all welcome to this beautiful province of our country, Antalya.

I would like to share with you that it is a great honor for our Federation to host such a

special meeting of our distinguished chess family, instrumental in giving new directions to world chess.

On behalf of our chess family, I wish a successful congress and send my kind regards to all of you.

## **1. Brief of President K. Ilyumzhinov.**

Mr. Ilyumzhinov first of all thanked the Turkish Chess Federation and its President Mrs. Tulay for their kind invitation to host the meeting of the Executive Board here. He underlined that the Turkish Chess Federation is one of the most dynamic and active. Here in Turkey a lot of international tournaments take place. He said he would like to stress that they are very strongly developing Chess in Schools, and in 45,000 schools, chess is taught as a subject. The number of the officially registered chess players is over 860,000 and it is larger than the number of football players. Mrs. Tulay said that soon they will reach the number of 1 mln official players.

Congratulations to Mrs. Tulay and all the whole Federation.

He thanked President Erdogan and the Government of Turkey for the attention given to chess. 20 years ago in October 1997 the then President Demirel was the first to host the FIDE delegation in his palace. Since then they have been giving state support to chess. He would like to thank the Government of Turkey and the construction workers who helped in 1997 in coming to Elista and Kalmykia and building the first chess city in the world in Elista.

Then Mr. Ilyumzhinov briefed the Executive Board on his meetings and activities in this year. Very briefly, since the Baku Congress he has tried to visit as many regions in Russia and countries as possible, to popularise chess. He has made over 50 trips abroad and inside Russia. He has met the heads of countries, Presidents of NOCs and chess Federations. During private meetings with Presidents of Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan he was stressing the importance and development of chess in schools. Many governments and countries have already given their support to this programme. Now we have launched a new programme – Chess in Families as well. He thanked especially President of Moldova and its Chess Federation Igor Dodon, leadership of Latvia and Armenia, who organised championships for chess families. Several days ago Minister of Education of Russia announced that from next year during two years chess will be introduced in all primary schools – which means dozens of millions of children. So main task we have is to reach 1 bln chess players on the planet. We have spoken to the Ministries of Education of India, China and other departments in various countries, he is confident that we will reach the number very soon.

He said that as for his sanctions, are they in the way when he travels, develops and promotes chess? You know that since December 2015 he is in the process of clarifying his situation with the US Department of Treasury. He has officially signed two contracts with the US lawyers who defend his interest in this case. Lately there had been four hearings on his case in the US Dept of Treasury. He was sure that he will be invited to the USA very soon. As for my trips, besides the USA, he is able to visit all countries in all continents. he paid his trips in air company, Lufthansa and others, he stayed in hotels and organised events and this did not interfere with his activities abroad. He also established the Chess for Peace Foundation in Washington, London and Brussels. And during this year he has organised many events, by paying and assisting through this Foundation, to many chess clubs in quite a few countries. He attracted many companies and many businessmen from all over the world. He has received invitations from more than a hundred countries and many Russian regions, to come and give a lecture, to bring books and chess equipment, attend opening of various

chess clubs and help chess Federations. Yesterday many Presidents who he met, invited him to visit their countries.

He confirmed until September 2018, he has made his plan to visit more than 50 countries. So not to let down the financial issue of FIDE, he paid own money and his Foundation money for all his trips and tickets. Next trips will be covered also from his personal sources. So he sees all my work only in one direction – development and promotion ches in the world.

He would like to thank his colleagues on the Presidential Board and many of those who are present here today, for all the work you are doing and for the arrangements of his visits to your countries. This Congress is number 88 in FIDE history. We have a delegation from China and many Asian Federations. 8 is the luckies number in East and in China. And two 8s should bring us good luck, success and to all chess players and to all of us, and to all of you who are here.

Mr. Makropoulos said that in [Annex 1](#) is the decision of the Extraordinary Presidential Board, Athens, April 2017. He also said that all of you have received the letter from the FIDE president dated 4 October and because of the letter he asked to reconfirm the decision of the Presidential Board.

## **Executive Board unanimously ratified the decision of the Extraordinary Presidential Board.**

### **1.1. Report of the Deputy President.**

Deputy President G. Makropoulos reported to the Board.

Mr. Makropoulos said I would like to say that after Baku we had successfully organized, probably the best World Championship in chess that we have organized, ever in New York. And it was on a very high level organized with great success in media and internet. I think Mr. Merenzon, will refer later to specific numbers. And I remind you that this was an idea of Kirsan to organize this championship in New York. And it was very pity that at the end he was not able to go there. He said that few days before the event; he tried, and they stopped him. I was there but I tried to avoid going to the opening ceremony or to the closing ceremony. Other officials from FIDE, they have represented FIDE in these ceremonies. When I was there, I tried to keep a very low profile for one reason. I didn't want to downgrade the importance of Kirsan on that period because we were giving a fight, first of all, to protect our Organization of the fact that Kirsan has been under sanctions, but at the same time, we didn't want, of course, Kirsan to leave FIDE, and we didn't want Kirsan to be insulted from all these... that were going in our family. I will refer to this later in my report.

Then we had Women World Championship in Tehran. You remember that we faced a lot of criticism because we organized the Women Championship in Tehran, because of the problem for non-Muslims, I can say, for hijab. On this, I will tell you my personal opinion that I believe is really the opinion of most of the people in FIDE. We should support the traditions of the different communities that we have in FIDE. We are one family. If we try to isolate one country, one of our members because of this kind of traditions, I don't believe that we're going to help this country. I don't believe that we're going to help the unity in our family. We should keep an open dialogue with these communities that have a different understanding about several things. We should make our criticism. We should listen to what they say. For me, this is the right thing to do, but we should never think that we should isolate one federation, one of our chess

members community because of such problems. And I can remind you that there were many other countries in the past that were, let me say, conservative in those things, but because we tried, and other sports tried, and they tried by themselves to open in the community this communication and this dialogue, the situation improved very much. So today there are no such problems. So keep in mind this, we should not be blind. We should be open, and we should try always to help the different communities that we have in FIDE, and we should be able to understand their own views about several problems. And we should respect what they believe. Another case, of course, it's obvious it was a great success, however we faced criticism, but it obviously was a great success. And I personally can say that whenever we would get proposals from Iran that they are ready to organize events on such a high level, I would not be against it. And I would try to do exactly what I explained to you just now.

In FIDE Grand-Prix, we have introduced a completely new format that we will wait to see, to evaluate the whole cycle after the last tournament that we have in November. We believe that the idea is good with these Swiss tournaments. We'll see how the final results would be, and we will come back, of course, here to discuss if we will continue this system if we think that was success or we will have to make changes.

Another event that was a great success was the general match United States versus the rest of the world that was organized in St Louis with the cooperation of the United States Chess Federation, the famous chess club in St Louis, and FIDE. I was there with Jorge, and I can say that I was very much impressed from the level of the organization and the level that this club itself is organized. It is really something that other countries, other clubs, they should see, they should copy. And I believe really that FIDE has to win a lot from the cooperation with such organizers. For me, it's really important to try to keep open our relations with United States, with Russia, China, India, with everybody who can really contribute a lot to chess. And we know very well that, unfortunately, for several years we have several problems with these relations. The fact is that United States today are opening the doors; they are ready to host FIDE events. For me, this is a big improvement, and we should really keep trying to cooperate. United States is a great chess market, and FIDE and chess will get many benefits from the relation and the effort to have championships there.

One of the most important efforts that we have to do in the last period... it was, despite of the problems that we were facing, to try to keep the stability in our organization. The truth is that it's not easy. We face really serious problems that I have to refer to them, but what I want to say is that for me, all these problems, they were not political and they were not personal because many times it has been an effort for these problems to be presented as political problems between the people or personal problems. I would like to remind you that in Baku, in General Assembly, there was an effort to go to a voting against Kirsan Ilyumzhinov being president in FIDE under sanctions. It was not clear what exactly the people that had the initiative to present their proposals were looking for, vote of non-confidence, whether they were going to go farther to force Kirsan to resign. We stand by Kirsan, and we make it clear: we understand that the sanctions are a big problem that we have in FIDE, but we don't believe that this Organization should insult Mr. Ilyumzhinov by trying to force him to resign. We don't want this. We're not looking for this, and at least few people there, they made it very clear. I can remember myself, Jorge Vega, Israel Gelfer, that we made very clear that what we believe is that Kirsan should not run to the next elections. And maybe on that moment there were people in the meeting that were thinking that we don't believe really on this, and we say we are expressing this view because we just wanted to protect Kirsan on that moment. The truth is that we really believe this. And we have to make a big effort the next months to convince Kirsan that

he should not run. I think Adrian can refer to the problems that already we have faced with our banks and our insurance company in Switzerland, and the situation, of course, it can be worse in case that Kirsan is the president because now we have stopped everything, all the efforts in Switzerland to take out our accounts from the banks there, because we have explained that Kirsan is not a part of the decision making procedure, that he is not involved in the business of FIDE, he's our president only. And somehow we convinced them that they should not insist. But the truth is that if Kirsan could win these elections and comes back, they will believe, all of them, that we were cheating them, that we were lying to them, we are not serious organization. Immediately they will kick us out. So all these months we were trying to convince Kirsan not to run, to find an alternative. Somebody else could. We had even discussions about the possibility that Mr. Filatov could run. We had discussions even one year and a half about such a possibility or somebody else from FIDE, even from another country. Unfortunately, we could not reach an understanding that this is what we should do in FIDE. Kirsan really wished very much that he should run at least for one more term.

And this has a result... to go to the meeting in March this year, end of March. All of you have received the Minutes of the two meetings that we had in March and April. So not to go into details, but I suppose you have read the minutes, and you know what happened in Athens. Unfortunately, there was a fight when we had a disagreement, but Kirsan should not use the board to resolve personal issues that he had with Agon. And then we faced the unpleasant situation that Kirsan, made a statement three times that he's resigning. Maybe I can admit really that I was over necessary hard in my statements there and in my arguments, but really I was feeling that I could not support something which is not according with my principles. I think everybody knows here that I'm one of those that nobody can buy. I know that in elections many times it was discussed, even in the last elections. OK guys, you are making offers to everybody. Why are you not making offers to Makro? And the answer is because we know that we cannot buy him. And this... many years is this situation. So I was hoping that Kirsan, also knows this. I cannot go to such a situation. And then, of course, when we finished the meeting, and Kirsan went back to Russia, and we published his statement that he's resigning, and we called for an extraordinary meeting, we faced another situation that Kirsan, he was informing the media that Americans are behind, Garry Kasparov, that we are working for them. Nigel in the beginning, then me, then Zurab and I don't know who others... we have a deal, probably, and we are working for Garry and America (USA). Something very bad, very sad, and it has nothing to do with the truth. And of course, we published in FIDE website what was the truth. I informed Mr. Filatov that this is the truth. There are the minutes. Please, if you want, you can send somebody to check. We have the tape also.

So, after this Kirsan came to the second meeting in Athens. He apologized for all this, let's say, I don't want to say "lies", this wrong information that he had given to the media and for me, to the authorities also, because also officials have been informed about the situation. We reached the decision which we have confirmed just a few minutes ago. And we thought OK, now this is finished, we can go to an easy life, we can continue working. Elections are after one and a half year, we can really be able to continue talking with Kirsan to convince him that what he was trying to do was wrong. But unfortunately, this is not the truth.

I believe that things became worse because in that moment, he thought OK, he had to attack on a personal level several of us, especially those he knew that we don't agree or that if somebody was possible to run against Kirsan. Then he was thinking that he should attack. I had a discussion with Lewis Ncube in Athens. I told him, OK, I don't know, for us it's a principal matter. It's not the point who is the president who can

bring the money today. FIDE is first for us. It's not how much money the president can bring for Africa, for Russia, Central, Latin America. The principle is that we should protect this organization. And at that moment I said, OK, I don't know, maybe Azmaiparashvili can run. He's the president of Europe. If he wants to run, if he finds some small amount of money for travelling expenses for his serve to visit federations, he can run. We are going to support him. The truth is that was not really my mind that this is what we were going to do. For me, it was one of the possibilities. In two days, we received a letter, an email from Kirsan saying that Zurab, he promised two million dollars before elections for promotion of the Olympiad and for development for the federations. And from these two million finally he's not going to give what he has promised, two million dollars. You know why I'm referring to this? Because for many months now we have received such letters, and I have decided not to answer to any letter of Kirsan because I was feeling that I should not increase the level of the fight. For me, this is a room we should say our opinions openly, we should criticize each other, and not Facebook, not internet, not such kind of letters and such accusations. That's why I am referring to this point because maybe the people, they don't understand why I choose to refer to these points. Because I never have answered to these letters and I have been provoked to answer. And maybe people think that I have not answered because there are no answers. But there are, of course, answers, and unfortunately, the answers are very strong. So, Zurab was accused that in Tromso he had promised two million dollars but he never gave to the federations. The truth, of course, is not this. The truth was in some statement that Georgia is going to spend two million dollars for promotion and development. And I don't know how many hundreds they're spending for promotion, but the real bit was 1.2 million euros for tickets, to support the federations, and above this we had agreed that they would pay 0.5 million euros for development. 1.7 million on that moment when we agreed, it was over 2.1 million dollars. And Georgia, they paid these. They are doing this. So I could not understand why Kirsan was accusing Zurab that he's not paying this money. At the same time, Kirsan promised at the elections, on the last day of the elections when Garry was promising ten millions for FIDE, Kirsan increased the offer, 500,000 for Africa today, and today 20 million euros for FIDE. Of course, he never sent anything. At least, Zurab is sending the money. Georgia is paying this money. And then what is important for me is that in Chengdu, at the presidential board meeting in China, Kirsan signed a contract with Georgia. He signed there for these 500,000 euros. He didn't ask two million because this was never an existing number, this was never a bid. So the contract with Georgia, and we have the contract here, by the way, it has been signed by Kirsan in China and refers to 500,000 euros. So why did he make then an effort to create all these stories? Beside of this, from these 500,000 that was for development, and Adrian in his report is going to give details about this money we have received-I think, 300,000 by now and 200,000 more we will receive this and the next year. It was the question why we spent about 46,000 to support the individual European women's championship which has been organized in Georgia. And this was an event that it was supposed that the previous administration of Europe had to find an organizer, Mr. Danailov. He didn't succeed, so when Zurab became president, they had no organizer. In Chengdu, in the meeting, this was discussed. Israel remembered very well when Zurab referred to this point, and nobody had an objection. I and Zurab, we have discussed this before the meeting, to support with 46,000. I, Zurab, and Kirsan before this meeting we agreed to support with 46,000 the Georgian federation from their own money. And today Zurab was accused that somehow he was taken care for this championship and that this was not the original idea of the 500,000 euros. So, the only difference for me is that Kirsan had not the same reaction in Chengdu as he had

recently because in Chengdu, of course, Zurab was a friend of Kirsan. Today he was looking at him as an opponent. And he was trying, for me, wrongly, to defame his opponent.

After this I can say that the treasurer faced the same kind of effect to defame him. I don't know if it was Kirsan personally or Berik. Adrian will refer to this. But they were talking with the president, the new president of the Swiss Chess Federation trying to convince him that Adrian is doing a very bad job in FIDE. And you know what the situation is. Adrian, I can say, from the moment when we realized that for years we were presenting wrong budgets in FIDE, is the one who actually succeeded today to bring back the situation where FIDE has plus. And we're hoping by the end of next year that we would come to situation when FIDE would have plus two million or over. So, if somebody is doing his job and he's doing a good job, I don't understand this effort to speak with people and say, "Oh, this guy..." It's horrible. Very bad job.

I can say that there are worse than that. There are personal threats; personal threats against people; personal threats against Geoffrey Borg that his visa would be cancelled in Russia; his residence in Dubai would be canceled because Kirsan has high relations there. And, of course, when Geoffrey speaks with Kirsan, and says "OK, Kirsan, but I cannot understand why you're going to this level". Kirsan says, "No, it's not me. It's Russia behind me. Putin." In many things, ugly things, Russia is behind, it's not Kirsan who is pushing this. And of course, the Russian President. And I can say that this is completely wrong. For me, this is the worst. And Andrey Filatov, I'm telling you that this is very bad because this is very bad for your country, this is very bad for your federation, this is very bad for your president. Because I personally believe that Russia has nothing to do with these ugly things, and President Putin has nothing to do with these ugly things. And really I'm expecting from you to stop this kind of propaganda. And if you cannot alone, we are here to help you. And if you don't need our help and you don't want, we will do it for you. It is not possible that we are creating here a political fight against Americans, against Russians, against presidents, Obama, Trump, Putin. I'm sure they have nothing to do with our family and our federation.

I can say also that we face a lot of insulting comments and threats against the executive director, Nigel Freeman. But we have faced another problem which I don't know, Polina, we have distributed these copies? I have distributed a packet like this concerning "Chess in Schools" project in Russia. The first time that I realized that something is going wrong in Russia with "Chess in Schools" project that was supposedly supported by FIDE was when I had been asked to sign a letter to Vice Prime Minister, one of the Vice Prime Ministers in Russia, Mr. Dvorkovich, ex-President of the Russian Chess Federation. We were informing him that we are very happy with the cooperation, we have so long time, and we were asking him to approve a project for "Chess in Schools" for the Railways because I think he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors there or something like this. I said why I should? When we had this cooperation? Why I should sign such a letter for Mr. Dvorkovich? What is the project? We did not know anything. And I was afraid that somebody was trying to involve Mr. Dvorkovich to this business that money would be paid but not to FIDE, to another organization that they have set up there. And of course, I refused, and we discussed this in the previous board one and a half year ago, and I saw Andrey was really surprised and angry that he didn't know anything. And later, of course, we got an answer from the Railways that they have rejected this project. But at the same time, we've got many other contracts to local governors asking for support for "Chess in Schools" project. And we have asked the Russian Federation, "What is going on?" Do they know? Because we don't know anything. Because the argument was that "This is a project approved by President Putin, and here is FIDE to implement this and pay the

money to this charity or local foundation, not to Russian Federation or FIDE.” And of course, Andrey Filatov until now, didn't answer if he knows anything. Silence, I believe he's shocked like us. This is the problem. The man, he doesn't want to think that he has to give an answer here.

Another effort to show that we are doing bad things in this organization, was a letter of Kirsan to FIDE asking in August how much money I have spent from FIDE for this year for traveling? Because Kirsan is thinking that I'm spending the money of FIDE to travel for the elections. So I give you the numbers, the money we dispensed one year before elections last time like now for Kirsan and Berik because they are traveling together and the year of the elections. So, 2013 we spent for the traveling of Kirsan 212,000 euros. For Berik, 65,000 euros. In 2014, we spent for Kirsan 184,000 euros, for Berik 75,000 euros. Together they both spent around 550,000 euros in these two years. Up to August FIDE spent for me 12,000 euros. It's ridiculous, the effort to defame somebody because you think that he's spending money when you were spending a fortune before the elections, and now you're targeting, trying to find the reasons. I don't understand this. 12,000 euros has spent FIDE for me up to August. Few thousands more up to now because I traveled to Tbilisi for the World Cup, Romania for the European Youth Championship, and here, Turkey. It's not possible that by the end of the year that I will spend even one third from Berik was spending in one year. And what an effort to make an attack!

But you know, there worst for me in all these accusations is that it has become personal and on a very low level. There are rumors that they're spreading and discussing with people, and unfortunately, people are coming to us and they're telling us. Discussions in Africa, discussions here. Makro is spending the money of FIDE for his personal medical treatment. I'll tell you what is true and what is a huge lie here. The truth is that everybody knows that in 2014 I had a serious problem, I had to make an operation, and still know I'm one of those who need a treatment because, unfortunately, cancer is not something that you can escape in one day. So, Kirsan, what he did in 2014 when he heard, before elections, that I was in the hospital? He did something very good really: he sent 100.000 dollars to FIDE and he said, “this money is to take care of Makro's needs and treatment.” And FIDE opened an account, and up to now FIDE is using this money. They pay directly the hospitals or doctors. Kirsan., this is the letter that you signed on that period to FIDE. It's from the archives of FIDE. And for me, Kirsan did something nice that today has turned into something very ugly: that he never paid this money. And they say, no, no, no, Kirsan, he never paid this money. Kirsan paid for his first operation. I don't know, ten years ago, when I had heart problems. Something that was so good and so nice, you know, has turned to a really very ugly thing. And really I believe that this is not Kirsan. I cannot believe that this behavior is Kirsan's behavior. And among the people that are running for him, I don't believe even that this is Abundo. Because he knows the problems that we had with Campo, and how we helped, how Kirsan helped also. But there are all the other little parrots that are running around Kirsan giving all these lies to the federations, to the people, trying to make some money of Kirsan, spreading all this mud around in our family. And you know them, you have seen them here. You heard from their mouths what I say the stories and probably other stories that I don't know. But this is something that we should stop. Because Kirsan, if one year before the elections you had reached this level, for me, this is the bottom. What are you going to do tomorrow? Are you going to threaten our lives? Our families? Our friends? And Russia would be behind this, and President Putin would be behind this? We should stop this. And we should stop here immediately. And we should isolate those that are distributing these lies. Our delegates, I'm telling you openly, you should spit on the face when they're

coming to you. If they want to come with these lies, ask them to come when we are in front of them because they are cowards. In front of us they never say anything like this. Because I'm telling you, with papers we can prove everything from what they say. Now. I really believe, Kirsan, that we should find a way to continue our life, stopping all this. You should control these people. Don't listen to them. Don't adapt their stories because you think that they can help you. You cannot win votes with these stories, Kirsan. You will lose elections badly, and in any case I believe you're going to lose, but you will lose badly. Kirsan, you have a history in chess. You will lose your name in chess. And everybody knows here that you are maybe the most important president whom we had in chess. You have helped so much our sport. You helped, clubs, federations, even when you are exaggerating the numbers of your foundations. Even with this, we know that you have spent huge money for chess. I know very well, dozens of millions. But why now you are doing this? And these little people, Kirsan. First of all, they cannot help you, are unable to help you. If the team that you are running for the election is this, it's a disaster. But worse, Kirsan, they don't have principles. These people don't have principles. And I know that you have. That's why I am very surprised with this situation. I will not say anything more. If you want to make any comment, if you want, gentlemen, to ask me anything about the accusations that you are telling to the people not in front of us, ask us here so everybody can listen. Is there anybody who wants to speak?

Mr. L. Ncube said before we discuss the entire communication between the members of the Presidential Board should be made available with regards to the Georgian money, original letter from President and responses from Messrs. Siegel and Azmaiparashvili and a letter from Mr. Ncube. He wanted to refer to his letter as the EB members are not aware of this communication.

Mr. Makropoulos said the Annex will refer to the numbers. He said he was not sure if we can circulate this but hope we will be able to do this.

Mr. Ncube said the report of Constitutional Commission also touches on this.

Prof. A. Siegel said first he had to add the information regarding the Swiss bank where FIDE has its account. He said it is a real problem with Kirsan on this sanction list. He did not want to comment as he had no information, whether it is correct and fair that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is on the sanctions list, but he sees the fact that he is on this list. He said he did not want to comment on the policy of UBS bank whether it is correct and fair that they are a bit more than nervous that FIDE President is on the sanctions list. He said that in the past the Swiss banks were known for receiving money from anywhere and they did not ask the sources, so since they have got quite a few problems in the past, now they are a little bit nervous these days, maybe they are nervous too much, we do not know. But what we know is that they wanted to kick us out. And his experience in Switzerland that the UBS is a rather nice bank, there are some banks that would have kicked us out immediately, but they are aware now that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is on the sanctions list and they are reluctant to keep us. The same refers to the insurance. We have to decide, we have to face the problem. He said we have heard quite a lot in the report of the Deputy President and he said he had experienced some issues which had not been very nice. There were accusations against Mr. Azmaiparashvili, Mr. Makropoulos and me personally, and it was very hard for him on a personal level. He said he stood for FIDE, tried to work for FIDE, with Kirsan in the past, and such

accusations came to him out of the blue, and questioning. You know that such questionings are close to statements, whether there are financial anomalies or fraud. And then it was the last straw – I am doing what I can and I do not need such accusations. He said this is not the right way and therefore he proposed to the Executive Board in the interest of FIDE, we request Kirsan Ilyumzhinov not to run in the next Presidential elections. He requested a secret ballot vote.

Mr L. Ncube said Executive Board has no power to request someone not to run. It is against the Statutes. Tomorrow they will ask me not to run for Africa, Mr. Azmaiparashvili not to run for Europe.

Mr. Borg said the issue is very deep and we said earlier there were personal threats. He said he had a seven-hour meeting with Mr. Ilyumzhinov and lots of things were discussed. We tried reconciliation between the team, but now we are on the stage like we are in a divorce court. The things are not good, the things are actually very bad, we need to underline it. In one week there were lots of allegations, lot of empty words, lots of threats, lot of friendships being broken, because election is not a positive thing when people start threatening each other. So let's be very clear, because it was not a positive week, with friendships being ruined. The motion is very simple, and it could have been much harder. We do not want to embarrass Kirsan. We all respect Kirsan and what he has done for chess. We had several Board meetings and even in Baku we all stood up and defended him accordingly that is why the motion is worded as it is. Many motions can be passed, the motion here is very clear and it is a polite message: Kirsan kindly consider properly not to run in the next elections. Nobody is telling him not to run, and it is his choice at the end of the day. If he wishes to continue and to run, it is his choice. But we are telling him, please consider. Now it is coming from the Executive Board. In Baku we stopped this, we have had interventions of several delegates who pleaded to President, please check your conscience, do this, do that. Prof. Siegel is asking for a motion and I second it, I have no problem seconding it. The main thing is we are asking: Kirsan, please do not run. It does not mean, he cannot contribute or continue to contribute to FIDE or continue to work for FIDE. We can find many ways of working together. He said the current situation is not positive. He supported Mr. Makropoulos who said that many things are not happening because Kirsan is controlling them, as everyone knows Kirsan's heart and everybody knows that Kirsan respects FIDE very well. And that is why we are asking him please not to run. Mr. Borg said it is very clear, and Mr. Ilyumzhinov can decide what he wants and he has already decided what he wants. He said they have had so many meetings with him where we were telling him that this is not good and he had accepted this. He said Mr. Ilyumzhinov wants to run as he believes internally that he can still contribute to FIDE.

Mr. J. Vega seconded the proposal of Prof. Siegel.

Mr. H. Bond said from Canada's perspective, you are suffering from "intrigue fatigue" and if this motion can help us in getting on with FIDE work, he is in favour. He suggested to President Ilyumzhinov: if you love us, you must set us free.

President Ilyumzhinov said that the elections will take place in September 2018 in Batumi at the General Assembly. Officially the campaign starts three months in advance, when a ticket is submitted and a person declares himself a candidate. Officially the announcement should be made that a person is running or not running,

three months in advance. Therefore there can be many candidates, and not only among those who are present here.

He said he understands everything said by the members of the Presidential Board. He respects all said by Prof. Siegel and Mr. Borg, he understands the concern and he is also concerned but he has always defended the FIDE interests. The amount of his current travels is not more or less that during previous years, and he would like to underline that all his trips are in connection with the chess propaganda.

If you take any country he goes to – be it Mongolia, Costa-Rica, Zambia, Zimbabwe – I meet with the leadership everywhere, make TV presence, popularize chess, speak at press-conferences, and no elections were discussed.

Yesterday we spoke a lot with those present here, with my Vice-Presidents, and I fully agree with their concerns. I do not see any critical in the continuation of their work, to continue my travels, to speak about people, children, to give simuls, to bring manuals and chess boards as gifts.

Of course you can make a motion and vote for it so I am forbidden to run in the FIDE Presidential elections. But why to vote, if I can refuse participating myself? Why to force me to do so? We are here in a democratic process. I hope the situation in the USA will also be clarified. I am under sanctions of one Department in only one country, member of the UN and FIDE. Tomorrow any other country, a ministry - of fire-fighters, finances, economics of Mongolia – Andorra – other countries, will announce that someone of the audience is under sanctions. So will this mean that this person will have no right to run for the parliament, municipality, international organisations?

I am not in prison, officially I was not accused in any point by any court, Prosecutor of the USA, FBI, CIA. I replied to all their questions in London, Paris, Zurich, Moscow. I showed them my 40 passports and 1500 trips abroad, I wrote an official letter to the FBI director, so I am checked at polygraph, and invited to Washington.

I came to London on purpose last year, as there is a FBI branch in London, to be tested at polygraph, to be interrogated. They refused. I wrote a letter to the US President, to be invited, and asked him – if the USA is a democratic country, please invite me and listen to me. If I am wrong, if I violated the US laws, I am ready to go to prison. I am ready to go to prison for truth. But if the US Dept of Treasury is wrong, they have to apologise to me – this was my only request.

A month ago I wrote a letter to D. Trump. I am grateful to the USA President, and there have been several hearings on my case in the US Department of Treasury in the USA, in their Administration. Among those who was invited to this Congress, is my representative, a US lawyer, who was ready to reply to all questions about the hearings, which were held in the Dept of Treasury and the US President's Administration.

As you know, last May we had a Presidential Board in Moscow, and Candidates' tournament. One of the EB members present here could not come to Russia because he was on a sanctions list of one of the Russian Ministries. I wrote an official letter to the President of Russia, and the head of this department and I succeeded to lifting of the sanctions from this person.

I have recently visited several African countries, and there all their Presidents, all members of the governments and parliaments are under the US and UK sanctions. But despite this, the members of these countries work in the international organisations, and are heads of banks. Therefore I am as a Russian, am under sanctions.

In 2004 may of those present here, participated in the Presidential Board and World Championship in Tripoli, Libya. Libya was under sanctions, the chess players who played there, received money from people under sanctions – son of Qaddafi, ministers, members of the Libyan Government, who sponsored the event, financed our World Championship where R. Kasimdjanov won.

In March in Tehran we organized the World Women's Championship (as Mr. Makropoulos mentioned), but despite the fact that Iran is under sanctions, despite their ministries were under sanctions, we received the money and organized the championship there.

My lawyer Robert Amsterdam insists that the hearings are open, so that I could make a speech in the US Congress and the US Senate. I am ready to travel to the USA, to buy a ticket, so I wrote about it to the US President. Therefore the sanctions policy carried out by several countries, is past, Stone Age.

This is not only about me – this is about many citizens of this world. When I meet Presidents of countries, Presidents of international organisations, they tell to me: "Don't give up, fight against this administration, fight against the US Department of Treasury".

I have sent to all of you the list of points as basis for my inclusion in the list of sanctions. It includes only the Guardian publications and other Internet-publications. Therefore I am open to come and reply to all their questions. And as I was told yesterday, the invitation has arrived to the US Embassy in Moscow, and I hope that I will be able to visit Washington soon.

As for my participation or non-participation in the FIDE elections, I should be the one to announce. This is my personal decision and my right, to participate or not in the elections. Maybe we can take a joint decision, and agree who we will all support, right here. But I do not want my rights to be violated or limited, as a Russian citizen, as one of persons who work in international organisations.

When I travel to countries, I represent not only FIDE, I represent Kalmykia, where I have been President for 18 years, Russia where I have been a Parliament member several times. If I had been such a terrible person, a dangerous person, I would not have been received by Presidents and Prime-Ministers of many countries.

Therefore, if I hurt anybody, made some mistakes, please accept my apologies. But all my work since 1995 for 22 years has been transparent and all of you have witnessed everything what I have done. I was spending my time, my health, my fortune, money not to promote myself, but to support and develop our chess, our country.

Once again I would like to underline – if it is necessary, I will decide myself which I will take on my time – to resign, to run or not to run in the elections. I am asking you not to force me. If you want, I will think, and can make an announcement myself – we discussed this yesterday. But give me some time. I think all I have done during these 20 years – give me a right to deserve a decent treatment and to request this.

I thank you once again for your concern and for your speeches. I understand you were speaking sincerely, therefore I am with you. But allow me to take a decision on my own.

Mr. Makropoulos: Kirsan, listen to me. Please let me clarify the situation as this is the truth we are all confused by Geoffrey's "bad" English). In fact, nobody is asking you not to run and that you cannot run. There is no such a motion. Nobody is telling Kirsan that he cannot run. There is no such motion. Mr. Filatov, please pay attention here as well.

Our motion is – we are asking Kirsan, please think of not running.

Our proposal coincides with what Kirsan said – Executive Board wants to make a motion and ask Kirsan to think of not running.

He will decide himself after that. And then he will decide and say, thanks, when he decides, - I will run, or thanks, you are right, I will not run.

The proposal is not to tell him him not to run.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov apologized and said that he misunderstood.

After several speakers (Messrs. Abundo, Filatov, Turdialiev, Ncube) expressed their views, Mr. Khodarkovsky spoke in both English and Russian to explain the situation.

Mr. Makropoulos ended the discussion.

Messrs. I. Gelfer and H. Bastian were appointed scrutineers.

Mr. Gelfer announced the results of 59 secret ballots cast as follows:

In favour of the motion 37

Against the motion – 20

Abstained – 2

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said he was addressing all Executive Board members. He said we are facing a situation which was described by Mr. Makropoulos quite well. You all know how much Kirsan Ilyumzhinov contributed to chess. He said it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Ilyumzhinov as one always had known there is a friend and there is always contribution to chess. However we all know that we reached a situation where some important decisions need to be made for the future, how to proceed, how to develop our sport and to develop our organization. Mr. Makropoulos mentioned me as a little target for Mr. Ilyumzhinov as Mr. Azmaiparashvili thought of maybe running in the elections. He said that therefore probably Mr. Ilyumzhinov during his two previous visits to Georgia did not contact Mr. Azmaiparashvili. He said to Mr. Ilyumzhinov that he is in his heart, and asked to call him next time Mr. Ilyumzhinov is in Georgia, so that they will eat together and he said that Kirsan has his phone number, I do not want to lose this relationship and I want to keep my friendship with many of you and Mr. Ilyumzhinov, whatever his position is in FIDE. Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that he wanted to clarify the situation about himself. He said there was not a rumour but some people approached me in my country and outside of Georgia. That the Olympiad and Congress will be in Georgia, and you could use this chance to declare your candidacy to run for the FIDE Presidency. Mr. Azmaiparashvili said he as a chess player, analysed the situation regarding this matter and he had several reasons why he rejected. First priority is ECU, he said he likes this organization, this structure, work with people in ECU, everything is clear and he has clear advice and respect this. We have a lot of projects with my team and they are still on-going. Mr. Azmaiparashvili said some projects were successful and he said he declared he will run in the next ECU elections. It will be up to the ECU delegates to support or not. He said he had been thinking about the future of FIDE. He said as Mr. Makropoulos mentioned there had been many discussions with Mr. Ilyumzhinov, what will be best for FIDE. Maybe Mr. Filatov could be a candidate, and other people, who will be trusted by our delegates, up to now that I understand there is no solution so far and we can face the situation even politically, there will be more fights than today. He said we have to think about the future and who will lead our organization. First of all this person should be with principles and he should stand on his principles. In all the years I have been in FIDE as Vice-President or member of the Board, with all what Kirsan has contributed to chess, I can see one gentleman who has principles and who you cannot buy, which is very important in our world. Some people think they can do whatever they want and they can buy anyone. He asked Mr. Makropoulos to seriously think to run for the FIDE Presidency in 2018 and he will support his candidacy.

Mr. Makropoulos said he would keep trying to convince Mr. Ilyumzhinov not to run.

He also said we have several good candidates in this organization and it is not in his priority to run for FIDE President, but we will see, he is not saying no to Mr. Azmaiparashvili's proposal. He thanked Mr. Azmaiparashvili for this but said we have one priority to convince Mr. Ilyumzhinov not to run and to find some common understanding of this problem.

## **2. Financial report.**

[Annex 85](#) is Treasurer's report.

Prof. A. Siegel presented his report (Annex 85 and Annex 3). He said for last year a surplus was budgeted and, fortunately, we came out with a larger surplus. This good result is due to high income from FIDE events and my strict control of expenditure. He thanked all Commissions who collaborated with him and FIDE to make sure there was no overspending. The good thing is that there is some kind of recovery of the assets, which increased. He said you would recall in 2014-2015 we had assets of around 2 mln, and for two bad years we had deficit and he always say and believe that this is the goal to reach again this amount in assets. Annex 85 for the year 2017, we budgeted surplus also, however this might be in question, due to the lack of expected sponsorship and not clear whether we will have World Rapid and Blitz Championship. Due to these missing incomes we then might have a small deficit instead of surplus of 500,000 which is not in line with his goal to reach the 2 mln in assets.

As for the prospects to 2018, the budget will be finalised the next day as the vote is necessary on the increase of title fees. So it was difficult to budget the income. After the vote the budget will be presented, including the figures for different Commissions. He said that we should have a quite a good year due to several events with most likely, a surplus.

He also mentioned the figures in Annex 85, the money which came from Georgia for development. This was raised by some parts in these letters which were distributed to the Presidential Board, asking what is going on with the amount of 500,000 from Georgia. He gave the figures for all respective Continents. From the 500,000 – 200,00 is to be received, and there are some promises to Africa and Americas from this amount. He said there was another issue in 2017 two 3-year old debts were paid back, one by the FIDE President (241,000 euro vis-à-vis his travels) and another debt – 30,000 USD – paid back by the African Continental President, the amount was given to him to make an office, this never happened and so we received the money back after three years.

Dr. H. Elgendy of Egypt said that as Deputy President of the African continent he had not heard anything as well as nobody in the African Board about the loan of 30,000 USD for the ACF office. He said he learnt about this two months ago only. Mr. Ncube did not consult his Deputy President or anybody in the Board that he had received this loan. He asked for the explanation.

Prof. A. Siegel said Mr. Ncube was not in the room but he might join the discussion later. The discussion about this amount goes back to 2014 and he did not know that the ACC Board was not aware. He said FIDE on some stage realized there is no office. He thought initially there was an office and the money will be used to move the office

from one country to another. Prof. Siegel asked Mr. Ncube to pay back this amount and it was a fight of one year and a half to receive this money. He did not want to enter the rumours as he hates all rumours, from where Mr. Ncube received this money. Retrospectively, it is obvious for FIDE that this money was meant for the Continent and at least the Board should be informed. He said what happened with this amount in the meantime, until we got the money back. Prof. Siegel was trying to save money for FIDE and since this money was given to the African continent, this amount could not have been spent on other things in Africa.

Deputy President G. Makropoulos said that he did not know anything about this either. Mr. Ncube got this loan from FIDE, but how did he get it, Mr. Makropoulos did not understand. He said that they had discussed this issue this summer with Mr. Ncube and he advised Mr. Ncube that he should seek the repayment of the loan from Mr. Ilyumzhinov from the money he was promising left and right in Africa and he was supposed to give him as election promises. He hoped that Kirsan gave him this money. He said he believes that Mr. Ilyumzhinov saved face of Mr. Ncube. He also said how can Mr. Ncube accuse others in the continent, when he is experiencing such problems. Mr. Ncube knew that this issue was coming, in the Treasurer's report and Verification Commission report. Mr. Makropoulos said the African delegates should know what is going on. He said all should know that money is not enough. Integrity and principles should prevail. We have a fight between principles and an offer of money.

Mr. T. Sitale said that we should better in terms of financial control especially in developing countries and Africa. There is a need to put a mechanism, or a bank account. There is a need for transparency and measures for this. We should avoid such situations as today with Mr. Ncube. He asked the Treasurer to put necessary measures in place.

Mr. Gelfer said that two years ago the Treasurer decided to cut budget of many Commissions as a measure to save financial situation in FIDE. But in the budget entry the reason should be stated that the budget went from 35,000 to 11,000. Anti-Cheating Commission spent only 11,000. People may think that from the budget of 35,000 the Commission spent only 11,000. It was not mentioned that the budget was cut and it was spent accordingly. It is a matter of technicalities.

Prof. Siegel agreed with Mr. Gelfer and said if we are doing the budget at the end of the year, and during the next year I have seen that I have to cut the budget, then we do not see the changes. We have to be reluctant to give more money. It is not given here in the list, or in the table.

Prof. Siegel said to Mr. Sitale that he agrees and disagrees with him. He agreed that from financial point of view it would be clear for Treasurer to have more insight into continents. On the other hand, he did not want to be involved in other continents finances, being a European. He said that all Continents should have elected people for this purpose, who are able to say what is going on with money. Otherwise he could become a dictator and this is the last thing he wants to be. He said let's discuss some changes, but Continents shouldn't have just one person who decides about the money, without involving the Board.

Mr. H. Bond said that the need of additional financial control was felt at the Verification Commission, more participation in budgeting is necessary, before the things happen. He said there was a certain appetite for this discussion at the VC

meeting but Verification is only speaking about the things which had happened.. He said maybe there is a need for a budget Sub-Committee for future help to the Treasurer.

Mr. C. Abundo said that Mr.Ncube is back to the room and he might give the explanations.

Mr. Makropoulos repeated the questions about the loan of 30,000 USD to Mr. Ncube.

Mr. L. Ncube said that the Treasurer should have circulated the initial request and all discussions with President, Treasurer, Deputy President and Executive Director as well as the report that he made to the Verification Commission about the nature of the request. He does not want to refer to the communication about the item without the communication. He said this was a personal request for a personal loan for him to shift to South Africa to run the office. He did not have an account and the money was put in the account of the ACC but this was a personal loan. He said all communication was presented to the Verification Commission. He said then it will be clear about the nature of the request. And after that he will answer.

Prof. Siegel said he just presented the information that the loan had been paid back, without any bad thoughts and Mr. Ncube was not present. This is the reason this discussion came up.

Mr. Ncube asked to distribute the original request and the report to the Verification Commission.

Mr. Makropoulos said now Mr. Ncube started mentioning names and he personally gave an explanation of their discussion.

Mr. G. Boxall said he as Chairman of the Verification Commission, has not seen any reports from Mr. Ncube about this money.

Mr. Ncube said the Executive Director asked for this report for him to submit to the Verification Commission. He said he can send this report.

Prof. Siegel said he did not understand as he was told this loan was for making an office and now Mr. Ncube was saying it was meant for moving the office. He said he had lack of information. He asked if there is an office which could be moved or there is no office.

Mr. Ncube said he made a request for a personal loan for him to move from Zambia to South Africa. And it was charged to the account of the African Chess Confederation. He asked again for all the communication to be made available, including the report for the Verification Commission. He said why this is so difficult to provide copies of all the correspondence.

Prof. A. Siegel said that the idea that FIDE gave a personal loan to Mr. Ncube sounds interesting.

Executive Director N. Freeman said that the letter was sent to Mr. Ncube and the African Board after the meeting with Messrs. Ncube and Siegel in Sochi, at the Presidential Board. He said Mr. Ncube had mentioned a move of the office of African

Chess Confederation that is why the money was sent. And the actual address was given for the office. I sent to all as you were muddling the affairs and I set the record straight, your email to the Treasurer – further to our conversation in Sochi, please transfer 30,000 USD for setting up an office in Johannesburg.

Mr. A. Hassan of Somalia Chess Federation asked about the nature of the loan, if it is a personal loan or is this for African Chess Confederation.

Prof. Siegel said we have a disagreement, the emails he saw from Mr. Ncube said there was an office and the money was meant for the office. But as Mr. Ncube is saying this was a private loan, and he moves as a private person from one country to another, we have to decide which explanation to believe.

Mr. Ncube said why in his exchange of correspondence with Executive Director, Mr. Freeman was saying “between you and me”. He said he insisted on distributing the chain of communication to the Executive Board. Why is Executive Director asking for an explanation from me and then tell me that this is his recollection as well and says, between you and me.

Mr. Makropoulos said he was surprised that as Mr. Ncube was aware that the issue would be raised and you knew that the Verification Commission noticed this, but he did not bring any documents on the issue with him. He said Mr. Freeman will bring the papers now. He told that Mr. Ncube had spoken to him and requested to solve this issue before the Congress. Mr. Makropoulos said he asked Mr. Ncube to solve the problem before the Congress as it would not be nice to have this problem in the Congress.

Mr. M. Pein of the English Chess Federation said that we have two possible explanations, and which is acceptable.

Prof. Siegel said he did not get an answer to whether there is an office. He thinks that a private loan from FIDE is not acceptable but he was not involved in this decision He said that if there had been an office, he could have accepted a certain amount but definitely not 30,000 USD.

Mr. Ncube said that if you go through the correspondence and recall the 2014, President said he would advance 500,000 USD to Africa and then he negotiated with an Academy in South Africa to give them an office and he requested this amount to move to South Africa. Then he asked for this loan for himself, but was told to do it through the African Chess Union as he was not able to get this money as an individual. When the money from the President did not come, then he had to move back. He said all is included in the communication. He said the report is an explanation and Executive Director was supposed to send it to the Verification Commission. Mr. Ncube said he would send it to all present.

Prof. A. Siegel still insisted on an answer whether there was an office and also, why the African Board was not informed.

Mr. Ncube said to Mr. Makropoulos that they discussed this in Sochi with President and then with Deputy President.

Mr. Makropoulos said he was not involved and his name should not be mentioned. He

only had the discussion with Mr. Ncube this June. It is just Mr. Ncube was expecting 500,000 USD and he moved to South Africa to receive the money and when the money did not come, he had to move back. He said that Mr. Ncube is naïve to say the least waiting for these 500,000 USD to arrive from Kirsan.

Mr. Khodarkovsky of the USCF said that a private loan is not acceptable as it means repay with interest. And if there is no interest, it is called a gift, which is chased by IRS and penalised. When you are given a loan, you need to provide an expenditure report, line by line to those who provided this loan.

Dr. Elgendy said Mr. Ncube received a personal loan.

Prof. Siegel said he did not know still any details about this loan. He saw the email Mr. Freeman was referring to, where it is written – to the African Continent. He said that if Mr. Ncube thinks you can get a private loan to him from FIDE, then there is something wrong with him and Prof. Siegel did not want to speak as a neurologist.

Mr. Gelfer proposed to find a solution to the situation and decide what to do, whether to sue Mr. Ncube, to go to Ethics Commission or close the discussion.

Mr. Makropoulos proposed to proceed with other investigation and to make a decision at the next Presidential Board meeting.

**Executive Board unanimously approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.**

## **2.1. Amendments for Financial Regulations.**

[Annex 2](#) is Financial Regulations for the Board to approve.

[Addition to Annex 2](#) is Title fee for FIDE Lecturers.

Prof. Siegel said that there are only a few changes. Point 8.1 some of the fees have been increased, they were not increased for a long time. He recommended the changes for approval.

Mr. Khodarkovsky said the USCF Board is objecting against this proposal as this is a rather heavy increase and burden to most Federations. He asked to reconsider the proposal.

Prof. Siegel said the reason was to get more money for FIDE. He said it will be up to the Executive Board to vote on this.

Dr. Elgendy said for African countries it is too much. This will not encourage chess development.

Mr. Al Hitmi said that we should think of three categories of countries: one is poor countries and regardless what you do, they will not pay and they wait for the elections years for somebody to pay for them. They are definitely incapable of paying. The second is bulk of FIDE Federations which struggle and pay existing fees. And another category is rich Federations they are capable to pay. He said we should not have the same level of fees for every Federation.

Mr Freeman said that both of the previous speakers forget that categories 3 to 5 of developing countries have rebates. Almost all of them do not have to pay. They do not pay fees, depending on their respective categories. Most African nations most certainly do not have to pay. Only in case e.g. Somalia produces five Grandmasters in a year, they will have to pay, but we think this is unlikely.

Mr. J. Kenmure said that new fees will discourage appearance of new arbiters especially women in the Oceania zone and will not help developing chess in the area. He noted the point of rebates mentioned by Mr. Freeman. He said the fees should increase gradually. He said he will not be supporting such increase of fees.

Mr. Pein said that their Federation is also against the increase and Federations should not be discouraged and the opinion of the English Chess Federation Board, the tripling of fees is excessive and the increase of fees will certainly give more impact to the countries with a lower income. He also said that a country can easily get five arbiters per year and we have to encourage this. He said even though he understands the need in FIDE for more money, he called such increase hefty and requested a gradual increase. He said that if a person pays personal taxes, and they would triple suddenly, it is not a good thing.

Mr. G. Borg proposed to keep the existing fees for categories 3-5 and for others to have different fees.

Prof. Siegel proposed that Executive Board accepts some changes and in points 5.1 and 8.1. to reconsider the figures, to come back next year with a proposal.

Vice President D.V. Sundar asked why we want to change point 11.3. Deposit fee should be credited to the Federation, why this is stopped?

Mr. Dongre said the bidding fees should be reimbursed to those bidders who do not win.

Mr. Freeman said the reason was we have to go and inspect the bidding venues and so far FIDE pays for the inspection but we believe that possible organisers should cover the costs.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou said that the bid fees are not inspection fees but application fees, introduced in 2011. They can be used for only travel of the inspectors. Sometimes inspection is not necessary as the venue is known, and the fees are non-refundable. He said it covers travel expenses not the accommodation, but they are not connected to inspections, only to the bid validity.

Mr. Sundar said the allotment of championship is done before inspections. E.g. there are three bidders, and FIDE should send inspectors after the award of the event. Inspections should happen after the allotment.

Mr. Freeman disagreed and said the inspections take place before the vote for the event and gave the example of the World Youth 2019 where he had visited all three proposed venues prior the decision was taken. He agreed with Mr. Tsorbatzoglou. We cannot present a bid for vote if it is useless, and there are no facilities.

Mr. D. Jarrett said the problem is there is a whole mixture of different parts of these resolutions: increased fees, new fees, and places omitted in the past. So if we say not to accept the paper at all, we will leave holes in the regulations. If we start picking and choosing, we have to be careful what to pick and choose. He referred all to 2004 with a motion brought forward, and it was taken apart bit by bit, and eventually we never touched the membership fees. It is not easy to change them, and he agreed that the increase is sudden and wrong, but maybe the original fee was wrong. He asked to be very careful with these regulations and what you take from them, because if you take out something, you might take out something which needs to be repaired in the current statutes.

After the exchange of opinions Deputy President G. Makropoulos proposed a Sub-Committee of Messrs. A. Siegel, D. Jarrett and A. Herbert to review the proposal for the increase of the title fees and bid fees and to bring a recommendation the next day.

**Executive Board unanimously approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Prof. Siegel said the three points:

1. African Continental
2. Budget – Annex 90
3. Financial regulations changes

On point 1 you have got an email out-print of November 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 where Mr. Ncube writes that it should be for the relocation of the African Chess Confederation office. Relocation means there is an office. As far as I know there is no office. So it is a first question mark. You can see, kindly advance 30,000 to the African Chess Confederation. Yesterday Mr. Ncube said it is a private loan. Prof. Siegel said it was not a private loan. We have got wrong information yesterday. What would you call this wrong information or a lie, it is up to you. If the money was for the ACF, then we can question why was not the Board informed? They did not know anything. The money was paid back from a private account of Mr. Ncube this year. I am happy that the money was paid back. The question still remains how the money for the ACF is on the private account, it cannot be very reasonable. Yesterday's "weird" comments were heard yesterday. He opined that this needs further investigation.

Mr. Ncube said I looked through my emails and I can provide an exchange with the Executive Director. He said that all subsequent emails should be made available.

Mr. Makropoulos said Prof. Siegel said that the information from Mr. Ncube given yesterday is not true. Also there is a proposal of Mr. Gelfer for further investigation.

Mr. Bond is very confused as the email says: kindly advance the amount for the relocation. After the email is finished in mid-sentence and we do not know who wrote this. There is a misunderstanding and it is not so black and white as we were thinking yesterday.

Mr. Gelfer repeated the proposal of yesterday.

Mr. Makropoulos said he did not understand the confusion of Mr. Bond as the middle paragraph is clearly stating. The question is where is the office.

Mr. Pein said there will be investigation. He is asking if this is internal or Ethics.

Mr. Makropoulos said the Secretariat will collect the material and of course, we should go to the Ethics. He said there is a problem, when Prof. Siegel was trying to collect the money, the attack from Mr. Ncube is that Prof. Siegel is racist. Mr. Ncube is using this low level of defense. People in Africa are decent and they know what Mr. Ncube is doing and here we can say who is racist here.

Mr. Ncube asked to produce the proof that he was using such language.

Prof. Siegel said in Annex 90 – in income side – the budgeted income will be increased from the income of the events to 3,331, 000 euro for 2018.

He said in expenses for Commissions will become higher and totally the expenses will increase. The surplus of 650,000 euro is expected. It is nice in a way, I am happy for next year. But I do not reach 2 mln in assets, which I wish. I would not be sad if all Commissions do not spend their budgets.

Mr. Herbert thanked the Treasurer for raising the budgets of Commissions. He asked the budget for Marketing Committee exists or not. Second – how continent is increase to the Commissions to the agreement with Agon.

Prof. Siegel replied that there was a meeting with Mr. Huba who said he has some projects and he needs money for them. So he provided a list of expenses and there is a monthly salary of 3,000 euro and an annual travel of 24,000 euro. This is unacceptable as he was reluctant with other Commissions, in particular in a Commission which just starts. Mr. Huba said he cannot do anything if he does not get anything. The money proposed by the Treasurer, was 10,000 euro. We cannot give a salary of 3,000 euro to the Chairman of a new Commission which did not produce anything.

Mr. Borg said in Baku we did not have a quorum to establish the Commission. It is not intended to bring sponsorship, as there is a different mechanism for this. In this case the brief of this Committee to try to understand what is the vision of FIDE. It has an advisory role. He said no money for Marketing is not correct. I would agree with 10,000 euro to be included. He said he would speak to Mr. Huba.

Mr. Gelfer said the Commissions budget, he will discuss this privately. As a whole this section is well-balanced. About Olympiads, in income – net income from Olympiad – 750, 000 euro – but in the expenses I do not see any figure. Please note that part of this amount will go to the expenses part in the budget. He asked to remember this.

Prof. Siegel replied to the second question of Mr. Herbert. He said we considered.

Mr. Borg said the stipends are covered in Olympiad separately. Some other expenses might be.

Mr. Gelfer disagreed with Mr. Borg.

Mrs. Haring said what is 140,000 expenses you expect. If the contract will be made public.

Prof. Siegel said he has no problem with this.

Prof. Siegel said it is a different kind to present data. We will get 200,000 next year in May and 80,000 go to PR and legal costs in Agon. So we get only 120,000. At the end of 2018 there will be 200,000 but 60,000 will be kept by Agon. Do you want to present only 200,000 or as income and expenditure. It is according to the contract.

Mr. Gelfer said we are checking with lawyers if we can publish the contract. We will inform accordingly. If it is considered as a private contract, Agon might decide to keep it as it is.

Prof. Siegel said he is in favour of transparency.

Mr. Rivello said some members of my Commission worry about the decrease of the budget of my Commission. We will be next year Electoral Commission, but it will be possible to decrease that budget and increase the Constitutional Commission.

Prof. Siegel said it is no problem, the budget will be kept but the expenditure will be met.

Mr. O'Connell asked could you please give background for the line of consultants.

Prof. Siegel said there is a contract with Mr. Mastrokoukos which goes back several years and also Mr. Jarrett is included who is consultant regarding financial issues. Mr. Elhaj is in this item.

Mr. O'Connell asked for the substantial increase for this item for next year. For next year Mr. Jarrett and Mr. Elhaj were added to this.

Mr. Boxall said he does not see how we arrive at 400,000 income from Agon.

Prof. Siegel said it is at the bottom of sponsorship.

Mr. Boxall said the Verification Commission would be keen to have a look at the contract with Agon as well.

Mr. Vega said the budget is based that income comes on time. Of course you know in the past there were failures in receiving income on time. And then we had to reduce the budget of the commissions, and Treasurer became the target of accusations.

He said Treasurer has to be prepared.

He agreed with Mrs. Haring and Mr. Gelfer that these documents with Agon should not be classified and FIDE has a right to know them. He is in favour to print and distribute to the members. We will not give this to media. We have a right to know. Mr. Vega said that if Agon fails the deadline, they are out. But I want to know when is the exact deadline. I respect very much the opinions of the lawyers, but we want to see this contract, which is not private. We will thus protect the Treasurer, protect ourselves and we do not want to protect Agon.

Prof. Siegel said for next year we expect 260,000 from Agon. So we will have according to our budget, a surplus of 650,000. Even if the money won't come in, we will survive next year. He agreed with Mr. Vega that we should not be in agony whether money will arrive on time or not. He said that the new contract will be stipulating all these. He is quite keen if the deadline is not fulfilled, it is over. Mr. Vega said we are FIDE, and he agreed with him. He would never agree to openly present a contract of an employer with a person. But such a contract should be seen especially by Commissions who had to suffer.

Mr. Gelfer said he fully agree with Mr. Vega and Prof. Siegel. He said he signed the contract on behalf of FIDE. He said Agon has an obligation to provide the prize fund, so royalties are for FIDE income, not the prize fund. He said the contract has to be published. He said the request was made by Agon that this should not be disclosed to the lawyers.

Mrs. Haring said that she thought that Deputy President is a signing authority.

Mr. Gelfer said the PB appointed a Committee and it was finalized by me, as the other two members of the Committee felt they cannot sign, so I had to sign the agreement, following the decision of the Board. If you think that the same contract has to be given to Deputy President.

Mr. Freeman said 9.6 of the FIDE Statutes delegate the authority to sign to another person.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said he supported Mr. Borg's proposal to give some budget for marketing. He said the expenses for the Secretariat in Athens are fully described. For Elista office we know how much they work and how much they contribute. For Moscow office we only see expenses and the staff travel. I do not know how to accept this as the ECU President I only have 30,000 for travel. I do not know if Moscow office does the same things and 95,000 as office costs and staff costs. What does this office do and I ask for the best expenditure and explanation.

Prof. Siegel said it is a tricky question. So there are several opinions. S the President is not in charge the way he used to be that is why this office should be in existence or not at the same level. There could be a discussion on this issue. From my point of view, I have taken the same figure as in previous years. There are still discussion regarding this, we can discuss whether it is reasonable to have the same staff costs and in particular the same staff travel in the situation Mr. Ilyumzhinov is right now.

Mr. Bond said there is no one to answer this question. He proposed to delete this from the budget.

The motion is accepted.

Mr. Kenmure said there is an amount for Moscow office. I personally visited the Moscow office and Danara works there and there should be some budget for Moscow office.

Prof. Siegel said one of the reasons why we are discussing is that in particular next year the major task of doing for Moscow office might be more electoral stuff so this is

one reason.

Mr. Boxall said we should be careful and there is a possibility of on-going commitments and lease. We cannot just strike it out of the 2018 budget. He said we should not strike it completely. He said the existing budget should be left and there should be an adequate notice for the cessation of the Moscow office. The striking is premature.

Prof. Siegel said about staff costs.

Mr. Freeman said at the moment no decision had been made. The budget should be kept. It is sensible but if we are under budget then we will have savings. On the whole FIDE is to decide about the Moscow office and the issues raised by Mr. Boxall.

Prof. Siegel agreed with Mr. Freeman and Mr. Boxall but said the Board can discuss the travel costs.

Mr. Vega said when I spoke about Agon I was not meaning to publish the contract. I just asked to distribute the contract.

Mr. Merenzon said they are completely fine with publishing the contract.

**Executive Board unanimously approved the budget for 2018.**

Prof. Siegel on point 3 said the Committee did not object against the wording changes. We have a figure if you agree. Annex 2.  
He presented corrected figures.

Mr. Sundar is asking not to change 11.3 – he is asking not to charge the Associations.

Mr. Borg said in principle bid fee is not established. We want to move forward.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou said the Events Commission, we were asked to have our opinion, in advance. He said we can help with the organisations. We must first of all which organisations. The increase might damage the progress.

Mr. Pein said only General Assembly should be in a position to change the figures. You discourage people from entering the figures. Such increase is an upset for many Federations.

Prof. Siegel said the call for increase is not his initiative.

Mr. Gelfer seconded the proposal of Mr. Sundar for the principle, it is not logical. We should raise the fee of the one who won the event, not the one who bids for the event.

Mr Freeman later commented that provision 11.3 is moved to 12.3.

Executive Board disagreed on the acceptance of the fees increase.

Mr. Borg said the acceptance of the regulations and then the Committee report, separately.

Mrs. Haring asked who prepared the regulations and which FIDE Commission discussed them or CBC discussed. She said feedback should be improved.

Mr. Borg said CBC can undertake this which falls under the Treasurer. You would discuss it in QC and this was not discussed there. Maybe for the Treasurer it would have been appropriate to do this. He said that too high level might impact on the development. It could have done properly through QC, EVE and WCOC. We need to make people responsible for areas for responsibility.

### **Executive Board approved the regulations without fees.**

Mr. Makropoulos said we will go back to the Commissions for clear impact. The rest will be worked.

Mr. Herbert said as the Events Commission expressed the concern, and our Commission we accept the increase for our categories.

Mr. Makropoulos said for Trainers, FIDE invests every year a lot of money to produce a lot of material, we pay back a lot for them to assist. So if there is no income, but we give back to them, to help trainers to be on the best level. We should do something similar to the Arbiters. But there are problems with no income. We do not want to stop our Federations to stop bidding.

### **Executive Board accepted the Financial report.**

#### **2.2. Report of the Auditors.**

[Annex 3](#) is audited accounts.

[Annex 4](#) is commented accounts.

[Annex 5](#) is fees paid to PB members in 2016.

#### **2.3. Permanent Fund.**

#### **2.4. Verification Commission report.**

[Annex 6](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 87](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Boxall said he has an appendix to the report in Annex 6 and Minutes in Annex 87. He said in summary from a financial point of view, the story of 2016 is a story of recovery from a rather troubling situation, one the symptoms during 2016, was that in January 2016 a decision was taken to sell 50,000 euro of investment assets on the balance sheet of FIDE in order to meet current liabilities. It was very disappointing. He on behalf of the commission he paid tribute to Treasurer ably assisted by Mr. Jarrett, former Treasurer who had brought about the beginning and something of a recovery. We said in the report, it was achieved in some costs and lots of good will of the Commissions who bore the brunt and went through severe austerity measures. This was

the background of the austerity measures and the focus of the meeting as well as the performance of Agon company. As you know FIDE assigned to Agon rather optimistically, responsibility for marketing and organizing its flagship events. It has not been an unqualified success. We will not go into reasons for that but the Verification Commission looks at the numbers and the history of relationship with Agon indicates that something has to be done. Stronger views were mentioned at our meeting. Much of the anxiety and frustration of Commissions could have been avoided if FIDE had paid what Agon owes it. It is a pity but there had been successes but financially the arrangement is not currently working. We feel that FIDE needs to be in partnership with a well-capitalised, professional and well-grounded organization to deliver the fruits of these high profile events.

We look forward to continued recovery and achieving Treasurer's target of 2 mln euros. We think he will be able to do it with your help.

Mr. Khodarkovsky asked during the meeting it was a suggestion that proposals of Verification Commission to the office that should be binding.

Mr. Boxall said it is in the Minutes. This suggestion had some support at the meeting but it is perhaps not for us to comment on it. We want to say that this will involve the amendment to the Statutes.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Verification Commission.**

#### **2.5. Discharge of the Treasurer.**

**The Executive Board unanimously discharged the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2016.**

#### **2.6. Re-appointment of External Auditors.**

**The Executive Board approved the re-appointment Ernst & Young, Switzerland as FIDE External Auditors for the year 2017.**

### **3. Administrative matters.**

#### **3.1. Affiliations.**

##### **3.1.1. Application of the Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation.**

[Annex 7](#) is an application of the Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation and its Constitution for the Executive Board to decide on the provisional membership.

Mr. Freeman suggested the provisional membership be given to be confirmed in Batumi at the General Assembly. Continental President to advise on the Zone.

Mr. Herbert said this Federation is a former Federation in FIDE which had a dark period and we are glad that they are coming back to the family with a new very vibrant group.

**Executive Board approved the provisional membership of Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation.**

[Annex 68](#) is a letter from the Bulgarian Minister of Youth and Sports.

Mr. Freeman said if you read the letter, you will understand that there is no Federation in Bulgaria at present. He said this was discussed briefly at the Constitutional Commission. Executive Board has the power to temporarily exclude Federations. As there is no existing Federations, the EB should temporarily exclude Bulgaria.

Mr. Makropoulos asked to take a full decision about the players, tournaments etc.

Mr. Freeman said players will be playing with FIDE flags. No tournaments can be organized or rated.

Mr. Borg said we can consider a bona fide tournament should be rated. We should not just say not to rate and new players – will require FIDE ID. I would not cut off as we have to consider the impact of chess developments and it is not fair just to punish. Somebody has to be tasked with this issue.

Mr. Makropoulos said we are working with the ECU. He said he went to Bulgaria with Mr. Azmaiparashvili and Mr. Tsorbatzoglou invited by the Ministry and had a lot of discussions. He said the EB members know very well what had happened during the period of Mr. Danailov. The minister invited even several important chess personalities to the meeting. He wanted to force them to find a solution in order to solve the problem. It was discovered during our visit that the money which had stolen from the Ministry is 1,070,000 euros and transferred to the US account. They had asked this money from the Ministry to supposedly cover their obligations to the ECU. The Federation that had been doing this for four years and then for three years, lost their license, it expired and the Minister did not renew for them. They created another Federation with some people from the previous Federation but Minister was trying to make sure there are no such people from the previous Federation in the new Federation. He said there are these people again in the new Federation again. Previous Federation which could give answers to what happened with money, to ECU and to FIDE, and it does not exist. New Federation does not have papers. The Minister is working with the Prosecutor. He said the work is done very slowly in this direction. They did not ask the authorities in Slovenia to open the accounts of the Delaware entity. Many people think that more money had gone to this account than this 1 mln 070, 000 USD. I do not know what will happen at the end. He said when they were there, the group of Danailov had invited Mr. Karpov to give a simul with prosecutors and if we are not tough, they will never solve the problem and never give the information. We should be tough but at the same time try to protect the players. In another case all those who had stolen this money, they will escape.

Mr. Sundar asked if we form a Committee from Bulgarian people and then we can think of a fresh Federation. He supported what Mr. Borg was saying. The Committee can be for one year.

### **Executive Board approved the proposal of Mr. Sundar.**

Mr. Makropoulos said if you agree, I can nominate these people, we can make some research so that the people do not belong to any side. We can find three people with the

help of ECU and will inform the Minister that we are working with these people. And we can say the tournament is rated if it is received from these people.

**Executive Board approved the proposal.**

**Executive Board temporarily excluded the Bulgarian Chess Federation.**

### **3.1.2. Request from ASEAN Chess Confederation.**

[Annex 8](#) is a request of ASEAN Chess Confederation to end the suspension of their affiliate membership.

Mr. Abundo said I sent an email that original letter to ASEAN that sanctions should be annulled that they had been in first days. They are saying they are lifting the sanctions. Singapore thinks it leaves stigma. The sanctions should be annulled. Nothing further after that.

Mr. Borg said of course it is a long story. Area is very dynamic. We should not completely close the opportunity for players. I recommended to let events and see that we find a compromise. He said he had set up a series of meetings.

Mr. Freeman said at the moment we are letting events to take place.

Mr. Khodarkovsky supported Mr. Borg's wording, to lift sanctions conditionally and to appoint a group of people and in the meantime to permit the organization to perform FIDE rated tournaments.

Mr. Sundar said no country is stopped from submitting tournaments. It is a ASEAN confederation we are talking about. They have taken action against and Mr. Leong was seen to be at work. And whatever they did, they should say sorry and should reconsider and FIDE will reconsider this as well.

Mr. Borg said it is face to face thing.

Mr. Abundo said ASEAN Youth Championship will be held in Malaysia next month, but this is no connection to the ASEAN Chess Confederation.

Mr. Freeman said they are not regarded as affiliated to FIDE no longer and no titles can come from the ASEAN tournaments. The Asean Chess Confederation should, in order to re-affiliate have to come to the General Assembly next year.

**Executive Board approved.**

### **3.1.3. Commonwealth Chess Association.**

[Annex 79](#) is the Commonwealth Chess Association meeting Minutes.

**Executive Board noted.**

### **3.1.4. AIDEF**

[Annex 82](#) is AIDEF meeting Minutes.

**Executive Board noted.**

### **3.2. FIDE Offices.**

#### **3.2.1. Athens Office.**

Mr. N. Freeman said no changes in the office and staff. He hoped we provide satisfactory services. We hear very rarely complaints and he thanked the staff for their hard work.

#### **3.2.2. Elista Office.**

Mr. N. Freeman also thanked the staff of the Elista staff for the hard work they do and they do a very good job, we never hear any complaints.

#### **3.2.3. Moscow Office.**

[Annex 74](#) is Moscow office report.

Mr. Freeman said the report shows what has been done since the last meeting.

Mr. Viang asked if FIDE has a plan of expanding FIDE offices into other continents.

Mr. Makropoulos said some people say that FIDE has a plan of closing offices not opening. He said we should expand Academies in all continents, but offices, why FIDE should open but we should support the continents to open their own offices. This is not necessary for FIDE to have offices in all continents.

**Executive Board accepted.**

### **3.3. Agon Limited.**

[Annex 67](#) is Draft FIDE Live Moves Broadcasting Policy.

Mr. Merenzon made a video-presentation of his company's activities.

Mr. Bond said he was trying to reconcile the fervor expressed at the Verification Commission with this brave new world and promise of gold. He said indeed Agon was making great new strides. At the same time we do not see money coming in and this is distress for FIDE.

Mr. Gelfer said he was the one among the others, mainly the Treasurer and the Executive Director who were worried about this situation. We had lived through several difficult years, and Agon was recovering from bad heritage, there was not enough financial means and FIDE was struggling very hard and some of us were close to lose patience. In spite of this, in the last five or six years, we received close to 5 mln USD or euro from all events, from Agon. Most of the time the money were received

late. We live in quite difficult neighborhood, chess is not an easy game to collect money for, we have very few assets to sell and sometimes the situation is unbearable in a simple business world. This is the situation here.

I cannot predict the future, I believe as many of us, that we are about to see light in the end of the tunnel, as there were changes in the commercial side and organizational side of the company. WCOG is to report later that the New York match was one of the best matches organized in the history of FIDE, in many aspects. It was the first time after many investments, when the Organisers succeeded to collect about 500,000 USD in Internet tickets sale. We did not believe we would be close to such numbers. There are other sides in the organization which give us hope for the whole cycle. I am 100% with Mr. Boxall, Mr. Bond and others about worries regarding financial aspects.

He said the previous day after long negotiations with Agon, starting with the Presidential Board in March 2017, we reached an agreement with Agon about payments for future cycle. We are very tough with the conditions and unlike what happened today, every payment which will not be done on time, will have immediate consequences. Up to now such procedure did not exist. This is a new clear procedure written in the contract. There will be only a grace of seven days for each payment like in all contracts. There is a progress about it in Internet. There are some commercial advantages which can be felt. We feel that this is the first time that that we are more or less safe in FIDE for the next cycles (two or three). There is a very solid guarantee in this contract, also for the first time Agon is giving an order to NRK which is based on their contract, to give all their payments to FIDE. Until 2026 it is over 2 mln euro. Until 31st May 2018 plus 7 days grace, we are supposed to get 1,100,000 euros. We have payments dates for 30 October and 10 November. 90% of this has been paid this morning already. He said that we are a bit more comfortable than we were before. First of all, we secure the cycle, we know very well that they cannot put us again in the situation we had been before and hopefully above this, FIDE can also make a nice profit. He said he hoped that we are entering an era that FIDE is better established in the organization of our major events and positively affect the financial situation of FIDE.

Mr. Vega said first of all his comment is addressed to the Treasurer. For me it is very encouraging to see somebody who believes in Agon. You mentioned the year 2026 and I'm afraid I will not be alive to see this. He asked the Treasurer how much is the debt of Agon for today. As no figure was given. Second, half immediate consequences might mean anything. What if they do not pay for example 10 euros within the deadline, will the contract be cancelled or not. In the past we have been suffering because Agon always had an excuse not to pay, FIDE was their last priority. The New York match was an excellent event which cost was 6 mln. But FIDE had to suffer to receive its money as we have no concrete information and we do not know if this debt was paid or not. So if they fail to pay, then we have to cancel the contract automatically, without any further negotiations. Here we are not playing children's games. You have spoken in general about a brilliant future and you hope that we will see the light at the end of the tunnel. And you said we will see green light, it means we are in red light. He asked to clarify exactly what Mr. Gelfer said and Prof. Siegel to give an exact figure.

Mr. Gelfer quoted the contract about punishment. It is agreed and fully accepted by World Chess, that in case of delay in performance of any financial obligations by World Chess, the promotion and event organization agreement will be automatically

terminated, however a delay in payment for up to seven days will not be considered a delay for the purpose of this agreement. In the event of the agreement being terminated, in accordance to this clause, World Chess will propose the sponsors to sign the relevant sponsorship contracts to FIDE.

Prof. Siegel said by today early morning Agon owed 235, 925 euros consisting of: the Grand-Prix Geneva 94,400 euros and the Grand-Prix Moscow 64,000 euros and 11 euros for Shardjah, and World Championship – 77,114 euros , respectively. In addition to this, we should have got the prize money for the Palma de Mallorca Grand-Prix and first 100,000 euros for last year, according to the contract.

This morning we received 345,000 euros which means we got the debts for these tournaments and prize money for Palma. However, Agon has still time to provide 100,000 euros till end of the year.

Mr. Vega said Prof. Siegel did not mention that by the end of the year they have to pay royalties of 500,000 euros. Mr. Makropoulos confirmed there is an agreement about this. So if they do not pay by the end of the year, are they out.

Mr. Gelfer said at the Presidential Board meeting in Athens, there was a Committee of Messrs Siegel, Gelfer and Azmaiparashvili established to make an arrangement about debts to FIDE by Agon. The debt was there but they had claims against this debt and one of the main one, almost the only one, was the situation of the FIDE President and his sanctions. They claimed the situation with sanctions caused them huge damage, legal expenses, losing sponsors, some specific sponsor cancelled a contract with them, they claimed they had a potential sponsor in the USA etc. and they asked to negotiate this amount by dividing the debt of 2016 in five years. He said on top of the events debt, in the table shown to you, the royalties were 100,000 euros for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 minus 50% as recognition of FIDE for them as damage. Up to 50% for first year and up to 30% in the consequent years subjected to invoices and receipts. Consequently, the amounts for royalties are net amounts: 50,000 euros – end of December 2017. 120,000 euros - May 2018 and 140,000 euros – December 2018. The total is 310,000 euros for royalties only until the end of next year 2018. After that there will be no reduction in royalties.

He said the Treasurer is quite happy with them. Of course we wanted all 500,000 euros, of course we wanted more but we have to be realistic and see the optimal gain for FIDE for the moment. The guarantee of NRK is irrevocable. If the future proves I am wrong, I will come and apologise.

Mr. Kenmure said it is fantastic that we see Agon move chess to a new level and of course it costs money. He said that Mr. Merenzon should give recognition to anyone who gave him a start when he took over the company.

Mr. Makropoulos said he was the one who had made contracts with Agon and was criticized that the contracts are draconian in favor of FIDE with our partners and they think that the money and conditions were very hard and whenever other companies seek a contract with FIDE, will be unable to pay such amounts per year increased by 5% every year, as there is no such huge money in chess. Mr. Merenzon accepted to buy a contract from Andrew Paulson, to pay his debts in the market and he was supposed to follow what was in the contract. Then this incident with Kirsan happened. Do not

forget we are accusing Kirsan that because of the sanctions FIDE is suffering and we are losing sponsors in the West. At the same time there are people who say ok we are losing sponsors but Agon should pay whatever is was agreed, but it is Agon who is losing the sponsors, not the Federations, not FIDE. Agon cannot generate the money they hoped for. Now WCOC and Treasurer are happy when coming to this agreement if they can get this money, as they accepted that they are losing sponsors, and we made this deduction from their obligations and we are hoping that we will get the money. We have already received a lot of money from Agon. If Agon was able to pay on time, we would not have problems. Agon is not able to pay on time, unfortunately, they never succeeded to meet a deadline. And it made people very suspicious, that they cannot meet deadlines. He said in his opinion, the match was probably best in history. They have very good ideas. They succeeded to sell tickets in Internet. It is obvious that they managed to make a good product. However, the fact is that we cannot trust them and I told Mr. Gelfer that this is my proposal – they should understand and asked Mr. Gelfer to make sure that whenever they are unable to pay, they are out. In another situation we would never go to such a hard decision. Nobody is happy now with them because they cannot pay on time. I do not think we can find another partner to pay us such royalties and guarantees, or give us a guarantee up to 2026, over 2 mln euros, for sure not. But the situation that they never meet deadlines, drove us to this decision.

Mr. Makropoulos said otherwise the agreement is great for FIDE and the guarantees are also great, the only issue is trust. We are worried that at one moment we will get information that Agon disappeared and how are the events going to be organized then. Mr. Merenzon knows this, I had huge fights with him in Moscow last year when Kirsan was running after me trying to convince me that I should find common language with Agon. We made a decision in Moscow that in Baku we could cancel the contract with Agon if they don't cooperate with FIDE as at that period, there had not been even a cooperation, we succeeded to build this cooperation, but still they did not succeed to meet any deadline.

He said that now we have an agreement with a clause which allows FIDE to go out of the original contract with Agon, this does not mean we will find a better agreement for the future but these are the procedures, how they have to pay as we do not trust them any more concerning payments, not the work. He said I am one of those who knows very well what they are doing and they are doing a very good job. He proposed to accept this agreement and to wait to see if they can perform and meet deadlines. Maybe it is not possible that they can stop being late with payments.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> Mr. Vega again reiterated the request to make the new agreement with Agon available to the Board members. He said it is not a secret agreement and we have the right to know what happened. It is not a secret and I do not know what lawyers say.

Mr. Makropoulos said he heard for the first time that Mr. Vega asked for distribution of the contract. He said it is a commercial contract which is not public and if we distribute, it will go public. Based on our official contract with Agon, the commercial contracts are confidential. The Board members can get the agreement, but we cannot make it public. It refers to all contracts with commercial structures.

Mr. Merenzon said they have nothing against publication of the agreement.

Mr. Gelfer also confirmed that Agon had confirmed.

Mr. Makropoulos said that the contract will be made available to the members of Presidential Board.

**Executive Board approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.**

Mr. Stockpecker of the Austria Chess Federation proposed to publish the agreement to be visible and regarding this long-term perspective of 2026 in general in economy, it is not usual to make agreements for longer than four years. So he recommended this for the future as we do not see chances for later and there might be new developments which we cannot see now. He said more transparency is welcome.

**4. Commissions.**

**4.1. Qualification Commission.**

[Annex 9](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

[Annex 10](#) is summaries of the over-the-board titles.

[Annex 11](#) is recommendations on title applications.

Mr. Stubenvoll presented his report and pointed out the highlights.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Qualification Commission.**

**4.2. Arbiters' Commission.**

[Annex 12](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 13](#) is Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Reykjavik, April 2017.

[Annex 14](#) is summaries of the Arbiters' titles and recommendations on title applications.

[Annex 72](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Nikolopoulos presented his report. He thanked the Iceland Chess Federation for hosting the Commission's meeting. He also highlighted new activities, introducing a new project Training for Arbiters, new Manual for Arbiters' and 5<sup>th</sup> magazine for Arbiters.

He thanked Elista and Athens staff, Executive Director and Treasurer for great help. Mr. Makropoulos thanked Mr. Nikolopoulos for his work.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Arbiters' Commission.**

**4.3. Trainers' Commission.**

[Annex 15](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 16](#) is the Trainers' titles.

[Annex 71](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Michalshichin presented his report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. He outlined their activities. He said we are happy to cooperate with many Commissions. We need an inter-Commission group to discuss. We will increase quantity of published books and materials.

As for the dress-code for trainers, we are a bit ashamed that we did not manage to explain to our trainers the correct dress-code.

Mrs. Haring asked if the Luxemburg Federation accepted their Academy.

Mr. Mchalshichin said it is up to the Executive Board to decide, without the approval of the Federation.

Mr. Makropoulos said if there is no reason to object, FIDE accepts such Academies. If there is a serious reason why the Federation does not accept, then FIDE will not accept.

Mr. Borg asked when the application is made, they submit a form and more materials. They say we do not really know the person. They say if FIDE is still interested it should only concern FIDE. It is more than validity rather than objection. They said we do not want to be involved.

Mr. Michalshicin said the application goes through the Federation. He said the Federation rejected without naming the reason.

Mr. Grivas said there is a procedure of 90 days and said there is no reason for our Commission. The guy works for the Federation many years.

Mr Makropoulos said then they are not objecting.

Mr. Rivello said they ask to change the name of the Academy because they are not using the national language. So the solution can be changed it is ok for the Federation.

TRG agreed.

Executive Board accepted the Luxembourg Chess Academy but with the change of the name.

TRG presented the awards for the trainers. Given by the Mr. Vega and Mr. Azmaiparashvili.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Trainers' Commission as amended.**

#### **4.4. Technical Commission.**

[Annex 17](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 73](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Bharat Singh thanked the Polish Chess Federation for hosting Commission's meeting. He presented the report.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Technical Commission.**

**4.5. Rules Commission.**

[Annex 18](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda and appendices.

[Annex 19](#) is amended proposed changes to laws of chess.

[Annex 78](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Vardapetyan presented the report. He concentrated on the main documents about illegal move. This was finalized in Antalya. He said the final document will be in the Minutes of the Executive Board. He said they finalized a document for tournament organisers to give correct information for the players. All is published in the Commission website.

Mr. Abundo said according to the Statutes Executive Board cannot make changes in tournament rules.

Mr. Vardapetyan said these are just minor corrections and the decision was taken by the Presidential Board in March this year and they acted accordingly, and he hopes that this body can do this.

Mr. Makropoulos said the Assembly authorized the Board to make a final decision and the Board could only come to the Executive Board for final decision. The Assembly could authorize Presidential and Executive Board. He proposed to accept these changes. There is no anything important to postpone again this decision. This is what people need to play chess.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Rules Commission.**

**4.6. Constitutional Commission.**

[Annex 20](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Rivello presented his report. He said we will have elections the next year and they tried to deal with possible problems which might arise next year: electoral rights, passive and active, and electoral rules. The first one was about Bulgaria. They anticipated the possibility of what happened this day – that the Federation will be excluded. Two possible scenario for Bulgarian issue development: a completely new Federation, the decision to approve will be after elections so they will not be able to vote.

Mr. Makropoulos said there is other Federation exists this moment.

Mr. Rivello said but we do not know the decision of the Ministry and we have just to look for a possibility to facilitate the agreements.

Mr. Makropoulos said we know the decision of the Ministry.

Mr. Rivello said if this is the decision of the Ministry, then the first scenario will be in place.

Pakistan issue was also discussed with a couple of associations discussing and we know that Vice President Mr. Sundar is trying to mediate. We hope that by the end of the year a solution will be found. There are a few rules about active electoral rules. We decided to anticipate the situation. Or we will have to go case by case, according to the Swiss law, IOC law and general law.

He said regarding the FIDE Handbook – they raised the issue of the need to have a printed Handbook and to find out who and when updates every section. There is an issue of the time when a change was approved and who did that in respective Commissions sections. We should know which rules can be approved at this time. He gave example Anti-Cheating Commission, Rules Commission, problem of dress code etc. He proposed to have an official version with the respective year. He said who especially gave changes and which FIDE organ approved this change.

The Commission also considered a letter by the Russian Chess Federation about the interpretation of the rules in section A, article 9.5. The Commission felt it is not a controversial aspect. They discussed delegation of power. They specified difference between 9.5 and 9.6. The task of the Commission was to give interpretation of existing rules. They proposed three possibilities and tried to understand what happened, they understood of what is the nature of delegation of powers. He said they had a very interesting meeting. We do not know which opportunity is correct.

Mr. Makropoulos thanked Mr. Rivello and said that the issue of possibilities had already been dealt in the Executive Board.

#### **Executive Board accepted the report of the Constitutional Commission.**

#### **4.7. Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission.**

[Annex 21](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 22](#) is an Appendix to the Agenda.

[Annex 77](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Ricca presented the report.

#### **Executive Board accepted the report of the Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission.**

#### **4.8. Development Commission.**

[Annex 23](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Herbert presented the report and said there are a couple of things – we renewed our Development statistics. We have only 2 Federations which do not have FIDE rated players. New development list will be on the Commission website. They also analysed

the Olympiad results.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Development Commission.**

**4.9. Chess in Schools Commission.**

[Annex 24](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 88](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. O'Connell presented the report. Collaborative effort with the Spanish Federation and IBCA and there are three joint projects. They are expecting the French-speaking Federations to follow.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Chess in Schools Commission.**

**4.10. Women's Chess Commission.**

[Annex 25](#) is Commission's report.

The Board is invited to recommend the change of the name of the Commission from Commission for Women's Chess to "Commission for Women in Chess" to be ratified by the General Assembly.

[Annex 81](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Freeman asked if there are objections against the name.

**Executive Board recommended the change name to the ratification by the General Assembly.**

**Executive Board accepted the report of Women's Chess Commission.**

**4.11. Social Action Commission.**

[Annex 26](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Katende presented the report. He said they have programmes in all continents.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Social Action Commission.**

**4.12. Social Projects Commission.**

[Annex 27](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Social Projects Commission.**

**4.13. Chess for Disabled Commission.**

[Annex 28](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 84](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Luther presented the report. He said this was a successful year, they organized a junior event in the USA and senior team event in Germany and the third event also. They are going to organize seminars in cooperation with respective Commissions and started to create little income. They introduced a new world team chess championship for disabled.

Mr. Freeman thanked Mr. Luther for leading the disabled commission and the chess activities.

Mr. Kenmure thanked Mr. Luther and other Commission members for their hard work and hard work of Mr. Luther on his project which starts to show pay off. He thanked Arbiters Commission for putting us in component.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Chess for Disabled Commission.**

#### **4.14. Medical Commission.**

[Annex 29](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 75](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Dr. Bellin presented the report.

Mr. Freeman thanked Dr. Bellin for her hard work especially in the policy of doping control to make it as non-intrusive as possible and at the same time, staying within the WADA specifications. Dr. Bellin thanked Mr. Schuering for his relentless work and legal checks.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Medical Commission.**

#### **4.15. Ethics Commission.**

[Annex 30](#) is Commission's report.

Mr. F. Strydom presented his report. He commented about the image of FIDE outside. We do all very important work here but our Commission gets sometimes negative comments in social media and internet articles. We have to try to correct these perceptions. Therefore, the context of Kovalyov case is one example. On one hand, we have a responsible debate between the complainants – Canadian chess federation with responsible use of words, and respectable journalists, but unfortunately ill-informed public makes all kinds of disparaging remarks on the Internet. When our Commission gets the opportunity to deliver the judgement, we think we must be sensitive we should try to educate public about processes of work within FIDE and try to uplift the image of FIDE.

We appreciate the support of Deputy President, Executive Director, CEO and confidence which our Commission is received. We appreciate the independence given to us. One of our cases was ground-breaking in the area of anti-cheating measures and for the first time we relied on Prof. Regan's calculations and his statistical method. He has to be thanked for his analysis to give us evidence for cheating. There was not

enough behavioural evidence. He referred to the past debate with Deputy President whether there will be instances when only a computer evidence will be enough to convict someone.

The Case of the Bulgarian Chess Federation which was referred from Baku. Investigations are slow for various reasons but one of the important breakthrough is the matter of the case Bulgarian Federation in the CAS. A very strong judgement was delivered in the CAS in favour of the ECU. Some of the individuals involved were really exposed. We are on the verge of announcing disciplinary steps against certain individuals. I doubt that any disciplinary measures can be taken against the Bulgarian Chess Federation which exists only on paper. But against individuals the measures will be taken. In the meantime, both Mr. Danailov and Mr. Sakotic are on suspension until April 2018.

Mr. Bond said Canada remained very dissatisfied with the unfortunate incident during the World Cup. He was hoping Mr. Azmaiparashvili would be present today to tell us what he had learnt on the situation. He said we went to the Ethics channels where everything was addressed fairly, but he was looking forward to hear from Mr. Azmaiparashvili what lessons he had taken from this.

Mr. Makropoulos said the situation in Bulgaria shows that the Bulgarian authorities are moving very slow and we cannot do a lot at the same, but the fact that the Ethics Commission could not take any decision against individuals who were part in the Federation and are still members of this Federation. One was Co-Chairman at the period and at one moment he was acting as President, illegally, according to the Ministry of Sports. There are others who were covering and supporting them. He said the effort of the Ethics Commission to get an access to some documents and accounts was finally blocked by 2-2 vote. Some of our people do not play a nice game. They think that if they support those who belong to the old Federation and are still in the new Federation, there is a hope those people will support them in the coming elections. He said first of all it is not ethical. Second, it is impossible. As a new Federation needs a procedure to be approved by FIDE and they will not vote. The question is why they are losing their faces. He said FIDE should help the authorities and Ministry to do their job. And now unfortunately, we did 60% of the job. I do not know how fast we can have another discussion, as if we delay this hearing again till the next General Assembly, it will be in the end, against the players in Bulgaria, and there hundreds of good players, teams cannot participate, young players lose their rights to participate and we are not able to help them much to solve this problem. He asked Mr. Strydom and said that in Baku we told that FIDE is ready to spend more money and to help to this Commission to finalise the case as soon as possible.

Mr. Strydom said what we are talking about, is two categories of potential wrongdoers. The case of million of euros diverted to a false bank account. He said we identified these individuals and we are ready to proceed against them. They are the main culprits. The issue raised by Mr. Makropoulos is about the rest of the Bulgarian Board which turned a blind eye. He said the problem is that there is not much evidence against them rather their being on the board. And of course the Commission wants to be cautious and they would like to move against all of them in one go, and it is clear in the end we will find them not guilty or if we find them guilty, they will go to CAS and will be acquitted there. Mr. Strydom assured that they will move fast in the next month and if there is no evidence, at this meeting they got details of the Sofia prosecutor and

it is a matter of police. It is a complicated matter, Interpol and police are involved. And because of the confidentiality of bank accounts, the confidentiality of this Delaware company is difficult to unmask the wrong-doers, but he is sure this will get the level of urgency it deserves.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that everybody is aware of the official letters and exchange. His private letter to the Canadian federation can be made public also. He said all the efforts the Organisers undertook for the successful event and all media is positive about the event, except for this incident. He said he himself is the first to be unhappy about it. All players should respect the dress code in the World Cup and all FIDE events and the Organisers' efforts. He said he was just helping the Organisers on a voluntary basis. What happened in Tbilisi, the conversation between him and the Grandmaster Kovalyov happened by accident when he witnessed the situation. Our conversation started in a normal way but there was a misunderstanding between us. He said that the organisers had to make sure the event is organised well, but the Grandmaster Kovalyov felt insulted. Mr. Azmaiparashvili wants to apologise to GM Kovalyov as the conversation was before the game and he is from the same chess family. He hoped that the Canadian Federation does not have anything against him personally. Mr. Kovalyov declares he will never play in any FIDE event anymore but we hope and we wish him to become one of the most successful players in the world and he thinks this is just emotional reaction. He mentioned that the dress code and obligations of all parties of an official event should be detailed, as there is a different view on such issue. Mr. Azmaiparashvili said he did not feel well yet about this situation. He said we live in a free world and asked FIDE that the responsibilities of all parties should be clearly written down in the official regulations for each event.

Mr. Borg said the CBC tasked all Commissions Chairmen were tasked for their comments with their Commissions and it will be put in the regulations for all the events, together with the WCOG and EVE events. No misunderstanding will be any more, it will be clearly stated. As for Olympiad, is our version of the Olympic Games, and the representation of Olympic Games – we had players not following any dress-code. Either you wear the colour of your country, in normal track suits. Western players do not have habit of wearing uniforms. We make sure we change this and all teams should have the dress code – tracksuits or blazer and trousers or skirts.

Mr. Gelfer said in Olympiads it is complicated because few countries play with their nationals living in different countries. He said he did not think that the problem is not dress code described enough, the problem is that till today we have not looked at the dress code seriously and this is a silver lining of the situation. We have to look seriously and some Arbiters even do not remember that there is a dress-code. The World Cup Arbiters should have done this before the first round.

Mr. Makropoulos said that he thinks it was wrong that Mr. Kovalyov was coming to play in Tbilisi in shorts. He also said that there was information that in Baku Mr. Kovalyov did not bother to come to receive his medal at the awards ceremony. If this is true, it shows the mentality of this player towards the organisers. Of course we have to specify the areas where he was right, but in general and it shows his mentality. It is a mistake of the arbiters in the tournament that they did not notice the way he dressed and it was a mistake of Mr. Azmaiparashvili as an Organiser, to go and speak to the player, he had to speak to the arbiters. Mr. Makropoulos said we tried not to have a clear dress-code, hoping for their understanding but as this is not the case, there is a

need of clear regulations about it.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Ethics Commission.**

#### **4.16. Events Commission.**

[Annex 31](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 32](#) is IO titles summaries.

[Annex 33](#) is Evaluation bids table.

[Annex 80](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Kutin presented the report.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Events Commission.**

#### **4.17. Journalists' Commission.**

[Annex 34](#) is Commission's meeting Agenda.

[Annex 76](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Media regulations were distributed.

Mr. Vardapetyan said FIDE must follow that all regulations should be unified. These regulations are very important but we have some conflict between that document and Laws of Chess.

Mr. Makropoulos asked him to prepare a document and send and discuss and necessary changes will be made.

**Executive Board accepted the report of the Journalist's Commission.**

#### **4.18. Anti-Cheating Commission.**

[Annex 35](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 83](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gelfer presented the report. He said since many years FIDE has been trying to avoid people using external measures to help them in the game. It has always been an issue but our Commission is meant to tackle electronic means and cheating which help a player to get better results.

He said he had four documents and two of them are not for publication. He said there is a lot of work to do to be approved in the General Assembly. There is a table and a roadmap. Guidelines did not become regulations, but they need official approval. Several amendments which we studied and received during years. There is a need to work. All our members in our Commission participate. He welcomed comments to be sent to their Commission during the year before the General Assembly.

He said they are dealing with many cases, some investigations last for years. Many cases we say that claim is not based on real facts. He said this Commission is not a court, Ethics Commission is a court and they are prosecution.

Mr. Gelfer stressed the cooperation with Federations which is very instrumental. Every Federation should have a respective body to deal with such cases. Greek Chess Federation created their own anti-cheating regulations and we are cooperating and even contributed to the FIDE regulations.

#### **Executive Board accepted the report of the Anti-Cheating Commission.**

##### **4.19. Online Commission.**

[Annex 36](#) is Commission meeting Agenda.

[Annex 37](#) is Proposed Transfer Regulations.

[Annex 86](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

Mr. Kaloumenos presented his report and said the online project is progressing. Some income for FIDE was achieved this year. He thanked All India Chess Federation for introducing online chess certificates as basis for chess education. He asked to recommend our platform from Federations to those who are interested.

He was also asked to review the transfer regulations. We found the regulations are attached to the Minutes.

Mr. Freeman said usually the Regulations come into force 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Mr. Viang asked about the procedure of registering on the platform. A player from Nigeria who claims he registers by this Federation.

Mr. Kaloumenos replied it is Federation selects which players represent their flag. It also includes their nationality. License is 60 euro and is valid for a year. We recommend to all Federations to accept FIDE flag players in normal tournaments, but they cannot play in normal events. It is monitored by Mr. Kukaev.

#### **Executive Board accepted the report of the Online Commission.**

##### **4.20. Marketing Committee.**

[Annex 38](#) is Committee's Minutes.

**Executive Board noted.**

##### **4.21. Commission on World Championship and Olympiads.**

[Annex 89](#) is Commission's meeting Minutes.

1. **FIDE World Cup 2017**
2. **FIDE World Cup 2019**
3. **FIDE World Championship match 2018**

4. **FIDE Candidates' tournament 2018**
5. **FIDE Grand- Prix series 2016-2017**
6. **FIDE Women's Grand Prix series**
7. **FIDE Women's World Championship match 2018**
8. **FIDE Women's World Championship 2018**
9. **FIDE World Team Championship 2017**
10. **FIDE World Team Championship 2019**
11. **FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2017**
12. **FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2019**
13. **FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2017**
14. **World Chess Olympiad 2018**
15. **World Chess Olympiad 2020**

#### **4.21.1. FIDE World Cup 2017.**

The event was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-28 September 2017.

[Annex 70](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

The event was great, participation of all top Grandmasters and World Champions. It proved that the Georgian Chess Federation is capable and well prepared

#### **4.21.2. FIDE World Cup 2019.**

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, Dates to be provided.

Mr. Freeman said we have not finalised the contract with them.

#### **4.21.3. FIDE World Championship Match 2018.**

Mr. Gelfer said the dates and possible venue are know and we are waiting for the challenger. Agon is planning to do this in London and they are working there. WCOC at its meeting Mr. Makropoulos asked them not to make a formal announcement till all is finalised, including the prize fund.

#### **4.21.4. FIDE Candidates' Tournament 2018.**

Mr. Freeman said some of the participants are known, the rest will be decided eventually. It will be held in March 2018 in Berlin, Germany.

#### **4.21.5. FIDE Grand-Prix series 2017.**

- |   |                          |                     |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| - | Sharjah, UAE             | 17-28 February 2017 |
| - | Moscow Russia            | 11-22 May 2017      |
| - | Geneva, Switzerland      | 5-16 July 2017      |
| - | Palma de Mallorca, Spain | 15-26 November 2017 |

Mr. Merenzon showed a quick update on the series.

#### **4.21.6. FIDE Women's Grand-Prix series.**

Mr. G. Borg said as reported in WCOC meeting, there are three host countries in the stage of negotiations. We have qualification for the world Championship match in November 2019. This means the cycle will slip into 2018 also. Hopefully in the next two or three months we will get a full picture.

He requested the World Team Championships. He said there are two or three countries who expressed the interest to organise. So he asked the EB to authorise to curtail the procedure on this event as a bundle deal, together with Women's Grand Prix and the both World Team Championships.

Mr. Freeman said the question here is that there was no actual bid for the event. The thing is that people should be advised that this is likely to happen, depending on how prepared they are on their bid.

Mr. Borg said this is not the case. He said there are three countries are interested in bundle deals.

**Executive Board approved the proposal of Mr. Borg to negotiate with potential bidders for the World Team for open and women a package deal including a stage of the Women's Grand-Prix.**

#### **4.21.7. FIDE Women's World Championship Match 2018.**

The event will be moved to the beginning of 2018.

The Chinese Chess Association confirmed the organization of the match and will advise on the venue.

Mrs. Hongwei said we have two cities, Shanghai and Tuntin. Maybe we can confirm by the end of November the venue, the early March. For the Women's Championship 2018 we suggest to postpone it to 2019, it will be unfair for the one who will win the match in March 2019. Not two champions in one year.

Mr. Borg said we spoke on this, the agreement is to be finalized in December, with FIDE. It is a FIDE event, players must be treated as Challenger and World Champion. We understand the request. The issue of Khanty-Mansiysk is not on the plate, it should take place in 2018. We requested them if they want to move. Or we move the whole cycle to March, then we should stick to this month for the match. Khanty-Mansiysk said November. If China is ready to take the responsibility, then we can negotiate if they want to release the event. We cannot lose 1mln just because one player wants.

Mrs. Hongwei said it is about the prize money, of course the local cities will not know the budget till end of November. We will give a formal letter to FIDE.

Mr. Balgabaev said he regularly is in touch with Khanty-Mansiysk and he spoke recently to Mr. Filipenko, who raised concern about two World Championships the same year. Also, the possibility of moving to 2019 will be very difficult to Khanty-Mansiysk, because they will organize the World Cup.

Mr. Makropoulos said we have this situation which arose due to a problem in the past.

But we have to stick to one Championship a year.

#### **4.21.8. FIDE Women's World Championship 2018.**

The event has been awarded to Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Mr. Borg said the contract has not been finalised. He has had meeting with Ugra Megasport, and they requested for the Olympiad – Mr Filipenko will sign. The other events, they will be Organisers, with Mr. Radchenko in charge. They are politically responsible to the Governor.

Since June we have been requesting them to finalise the contract but we are in a stalemate, blocked by not having made any progress. He spoke to Mr. Filatov to intervene and push Ugra to start actions. Mr. Filatov and Mr Glukhovsky to speak to them.

He asked Executive Board to authorise Presidential Board to take necessary steps in case it is necessary.

Mr. Makropoulos should write to Mrs. Komarova. He asked Mr. Balgabaev to deliver message to Ugra to finalise the event in the next two weeks.

**Executive Board approved.**

#### **4.21.9. FIDE World Team Championship 2017.**

The event was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 16-28 June 2017.

[Annex 39](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

#### **4.21.10. FIDE World Team Championship 2019.**

Bids to reach the Secretariat by February 28th 2018.

**Executive Board approved the proposal of Mr Borg**

#### **4.21.11. FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2017.**

The event was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 16-28 June 2017.

#### **4.21.12. FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2019.**

Bids to reach the Secretariat by February 28<sup>th</sup> 2018.

#### **4.21.13. FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2017 and FIDE Women's World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2017.**

Bids to reach the Secretariat by September 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Mr. Freeman informed the Board that no bids were received.

Mr. Borg said he advised Agon not to take any options if they do not have a serious intention and organiser. He said in future I can negotiate with Chinese as part of the

contract, to increase the budget a bit. Chinese are pressing us to get all top players.

Mr. Makropoulos said that this year is not possible. WCOC recommendation is attached to the Minutes.

Championship should not depend on Internet.

Mr. Borg said qualification could be delegated to Agon, there are not mutually exclusive proposals.

Mr. Sundar said we have in Hyderabad interest provided Anand and Carlsen participate. The Board noted.

#### **4.21.14. World Chess Olympiad 2018.**

The event shall be held in Batumi, Georgia, 23 September – 7 October 2018.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said we informed FIDE, that we had a meeting with Messrs. Borg and Gelfer. After the World Cup Mr. Borg came again and they went together to Batumi. The proposal was from the officials was not acceptable, to split the event or organise it in the building which does not satisfy our needs. Main point is that the Adjara Government decided to build a new sport palace, there was a bid winner but the winner was disqualified and it is a legal procedure between some parties. Solution is to be found. The solution was by 12<sup>th</sup> October and the agreement will be to host the Olympiad, to be held in the building which will be finished in January-February The total area will be about 5,5 mln sq.m. Decision will be made whether to use two floors or to have an external building. He said the two-floor solution is to be over by April.

He requested Mr. Gelfer and Mr. Borg to meet with people in Batumi more often and he requested the help of FIDE, to criticise him.

Mr. Gelfer said that Mr. Azmaiparashvili's struggle with the authorities has been going on for two years. He said there should be a deadline. He said we need to see a progress. Congress will be held in the highest level, delegates will be staying in Sheraton and Hilton. Batumi is a fantastic place. We have no problem with anything regarding Congress.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov said as for Georgia, we have been in active negotiations with the Prime-Minister of Georgia B. Ivanishvili, who is the country's leader. We then agreed that Georgia is the centre of the women's chess development and where chess is a traditional sport, and thanks to the Georgian Chess Federation's decision and help of all chess community the decision was taken to organise the Olympiad in Batumi. Batumi is a very beautiful city with a large number of hotels, which correspond the requirements for the organisation. Indeed there are two problems – we need a spacious tournament hall, Sports Palace, and of course, the budget for the organisation of the Olympiad should be increased. The means provided by the Government of Georgia and the Batumi municipality for this purpose, so there is a need of attracting external sponsorship, following the example of Khanty-Mansiysk. As you are aware, there is a lack of the hotel rooms to host all those who will come to the Olympiad, and they are attracting sponsors now to build hotels there. As for the construction of the large sports palace in Batumi, I have asked one of the main investors to Georgia, Sheikh Nahayan al Nahayan, Minister of Education in the UAE. He constructed the largest hotel in

Tbilisi, which was the venue for the final stage of our World Cup. He had already invested several thousands of millions. I recently visited him in Abu-Dhabi and he showed me the plans of the hotel which the Prime-Minister of Georgia to build in Tbilisi. Six months ago I visited him in his palace, I was in contact with Mr. Azmaiparashvili requesting a letter sent by the Government of Georgia to ask for the investment to the Batumi infrastructure. Sheikh al Nahayan had already visited Batumi and he was shown some sites for possible construction of his hotels. Mr. Ilyumzhinov requested that the investment of Sheikh al Nahayan to be sent for the construction of a large sports palace or a concert hall, as there is an absence of such facilities in Batumi. He told Mr. Ilyumzhinov that he would think this proposal. And if the Executive Board provides Mr. Ilyumzhinov with an authorisation, he will continue his negotiations with Sheikh al Nahayan so he invests into the construction of the large cultural palaces in Batumi and consider being a sponsor of the organisation of the Chess Olympiad in Batumi.

Mr. Borg said the Congress facilities are fine. 14 hotels are fine and listed. He said he checked transport facilities, train and plane. We look at the three areas, all are being reviewed. He commended Mr. Azmaiparashvili whose team is very small, but we are sure his event will be ok. Once we solve the venue issue. Of course Sheikh Nahayan is one of the richest persons. But we have no time. It would be wonderful if we could see how much he could invest into this. I do not think we should to a weekly visits.

Mr. Balgabaev said how we can help Zurab and maybe to have FIDE on the safe side. Maybe we should start thinking about alternative? Other town or country? This might help Zurab to push his government.

Mr. Borg said he had already done it.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili thanked the FIDE President for his kind offer. He said the Georgian Government has no single financial problem regarding the Olympiad. Everything is already in the budget for the 2018 to be approved by the Parliament. 105% is that this will be approved. Regarding financing, where currency is not euro or dollar, there are fluctuations, and Georgian lari went down, but World Cup did not feel this and we push our Government to increase our budgets. We agreed on the budget if something happens to lari. It does not mean we do not need any sponsors. They are welcome. I would appreciate if Kirsan brings additional sponsorship to Georgia. Regarding the building, Kirsan is right, he called me from the UAE, and I spoke to Sheikh Nahayan and I invited him to Georgia. He is a big person with lots of investments but it is not the floor here to discuss his possible investments, in Batumi 80% of work is done and visible. We cannot discuss things which are not even a real project. No building can be erected and we should use existing buildings. My government and me will never accept this.

Mr. Makropoulos said unfortunately FIDE is facing such problems when the bidders promise the buildings, e.g. Khanty-Mansiysk, where there were not enough hotels, we were lucky they had enough facilities, but their promises were not fulfilled. He reminded about Tromso also, where they failed to build a playing hall and new hotels. At the end we used this bad facility as a tournament hall. We are one year before the Olympiad and there is no time to build a new building. If Sheikh Nahayan can build it, he needs 3-4 years to finalise this. If Kirsan can help Georgia and Olympiad, with

special sponsorship, he is very welcome, as Mr. Azmaiparashvili said, we will all be very happy. But realistically, there is no chance to build it. He said I am worried, if the building is finished in June, then we will face a lot of problems, the smell of paint will be very strong etc etc. We should make sure that the building should be really over by the end of June and consider the proposed two possible solutions.

Mr. Makropoulos proposed to sign an agreement with the dates – when they start and they finish. He reminded that there is a proposed fine – that if a building is provided – part of the guarantee stays in FIDE. We should be inspecting the entire process.

**Executive Board approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.**

Mrs. Haring asked about the dates:

**23 September – 6 October 2018.**

**Executive Board approved.**

**4.21.15. World Chess Olympiad 2020.**

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation.

The dates to be announced.

Mr. Makropoulos asked if the Olympian hotel is used again.

Mr. Borg said the advantage of Khanty is that they organise events every year. The Olympic hotel is used as hotel only in half. They are very good organisers and we have a fantastic relationship with them. We need a roadmap and a schedule with concrete objectives. They should start preparing hotels etc.

Mr. Balgabaev is tasked to inform the Organisers to produce a written document with all dates and a full schedule.

**5. FIDE Meetings, Tournaments and Matches.**

**5.1. Presidential Board and FIDE Congresses.**

**5.1.1. Presidential Board meetings 2017.**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Presidential Board Meeting, Athens, Greece, 24-27 March 2017.

Extraordinary Presidential Board Meeting, Athens, Greece, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Mr. Bond said there was a written resolution on titles. He asked to improve on the communication for such cases.

Mr. Freeman said this was purely for titles.

**5.1.2. 88<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress 2017.**

Goynuk, Antalya, 7-15 October 2017.

**5.1.3. 89<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress 2018.**

The event shall be held in Batumi, Georgia, 28 September – 7 October 2018.

**5.1.4. 90<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress 2019.**

**5.2. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship.**

**5.2.1. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2017.**

The event shall be held in Tarvisio, Italy, 12-16 November 2017.

**5.2.2. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2018.**

The event shall be held in Manavgat-Antalya, Turkey, 15-29 September 2018.

**5.2.3. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2019.**

[Annex 40](#) is a bid from Indian Chess Federation to organise the event in India.

**The event was awarded to India.**

**5.2.4. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship for disabled 2017.**

The pilot event was organised in Florida, USA, June 22-29 2017.

[Annex 41](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

**5.3. World Youth and Cadet Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18.**

**5.3.1. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2016.**

The event was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 20 September-4 October 2016.

**5.3.2. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2017.**

The event was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 16-26 September 2017.

[Annex 69](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

**5.3.3. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2018.**

The event shall be held in Halkidiki, Greece, 24 October – 5 November 2018.

**5.3.4. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2019.**

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 42](#) is a bid from Chinese Chess Association to organise the event in Weifang Shandong, China.

[Annex 43](#) is a bid from Indian Chess Federation to organise the event in India.

China withdrew their bid.

**The event is granted to India.**

#### **5.3.5. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2017.**

The event was held in Pocos de Caldas, Brazil, 21-31 August 2017.

[Annex 66](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

#### **5.3.6. World Cadet Rapid and Blitz Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2017.**

The pilot event was organised by the Belarus Chess Federation in Minsk, 1-5 June 2017.

As it was a success, FIDE has granted to Minsk the right to organise two consecutive Championships, 21-25 June 2018 and 20-24 June 2019.

#### **5.3.7. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2018.**

The event shall be held in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), Spain, 3-16 November 2018.

#### **5.3.8. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2019.**

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 44](#) is a bid from Chinese Chess Association to organise the event in Chengdu, China.

[Annex 45](#) is a bid from Indian Chess Federation to organise the event in India.

[Annex 46](#) is a bid from Thailand Chess Association to organise the event in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1-10 September 2019.

India withdrew their bid.

**Executive Board with a secret ballot vote awarded the event to China (32 in favour of China, 23 in favour of Thailand, out of 55 votes).**

### **5.4. World Seniors Championship.**

#### **5.4.1 World Senior Championship 2017.**

The event shall be held in Acqui Terme, Italy, 6-19 November 2017.

#### **5.4.2. World Senior Championship 2018.**

The event shall be held in Bled, Slovenia, 17-30 November 2018.

### **5.4.3. World Senior Championship 2019.**

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 47](#) is a bid from Italian Chess Federation to organise the event in Terassini Palermo, Italy, 6-17 November 2019.

[Annex 48](#) is a bid from Romanian Chess Federation to organise the event in Oradea, Romania, 11-24 November 2019.

[Annex 49](#) is a bid from German Chess Federation to organise the event in Dresden, Germany, 19-27 October 2019.

[Annex 50](#) is a bid from Russian Chess Federation to organise the event in Sochi, Russia, 17-30 November 2019.

[Annex 51](#) is bids evaluation.

**Executive Board with a secret ballot has awarded the event to Romania (34 in favour of Romania, Russia – 6 votes, Italy – 7, Germany – 8 votes, out of 55 votes)**

### **5.4.4. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2017.**

The event was held in Crete, Greece, 23 April – 3 May 2017.

### **5.4.5. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2018.**

The event shall be held in Radebeul (Dresden), Germany, 30 June - 8 July 2018.

### **5.4.6. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2019.**

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 52](#) is a bid from Greek Chess Federation to organise the event in Heraklion Crete, Greece, 3-14 May 2019.

[Annex 53](#) is a bid from German Chess Federation to organise the event in Radebeul, Germany, 6-14 July 2019.

[Annex 54](#) is a bid from Czech Republic Chess Federation to organise the event in Prague, Czech Republic, 14-24 March 2019.

[Annex 55](#) is bids evaluation.

**Executive Board with a secret ballot has awarded the event to Greece (33 in favour of Greece, Czech Republic – 15 votes, Germany – 7 votes, out of 55 votes).**

## **5.5. World Amateur Championship.**

### **5.5.1. World Amateur Championship 2017.**

The event was held in Spoleto, Italy, 1-9 April 2017.

#### **5.5.2. World Amateur Championship 2018.**

The event shall be held in Cagliari-Sardegna, Italy, 21 April – 1 May 2018.

#### **5.5.3. World Amateur Championship 2019.**

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 56](#) is a bid from Indian Chess Federation to organise the event in India.

[Annex 57](#) is a bid from Greek Chess Federation to organise the event in Heraclion Crete, Greece, 11-21 April 2019.

[Annex 58](#) is a bid from Turkish Chess Federation to organise the event in Marmaris, Turkey, 6-15 April 2019.

[Annex 59](#) is a bid from Mexican Chess Federation to organise the event in Mexico City, Mexico, 23-28 April 2019.

[Annex 60](#) is a bid from Romanian Chess Federation to organize the event in Iasi, Romania, 1-10 April 2019.

[Annex 61](#) is bids evaluation.

India, Greece and Romania withdrew their bids.

**Executive Board with a secret ballot has awarded the event to Mexico (43 votes against 12 votes for Turkey, out of 55 votes).**

#### **5.6. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad.**

##### **5.6.1. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2017.**

The event shall be held in Ahmedabad, India, 10-20 December 2017.

##### **5.6.2. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2018.**

The event shall be held in Manavgat-Antalya, Turkey, 24 November–3 December 2018.

##### **5.6.3. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2019.**

#### **5.7. World Schools Individual Championship.**

##### **5.7.1. World Schools Individual Championship 2017.**

The event was held in Iasi, Romania, 21 April – 1 May 2017.

##### **5.7.2. World Schools Individual Championship 2018.**

The event shall be held in Durres, Albania, 20-30 April 2018.

**5.7.3. World Schools Individual Championship 2019.**

The 2019 event will be held in Sousse, Tunisia. Dates to be announced.

**6. Reports of Continental Presidents.**

**6. Reports of Continental Presidents.**

**6.1. Report of Continental President for Europe.**

[Annex 62](#) is Continental President's report.

**Executive Board accepted.**

**6.2. Report of Continental President for Americas.**

[Annex 63](#) is Continental President's report.

**Executive Board accepted.**

**6.3. Report of Asian Continental President.**

[Annex 64](#) is Continental President's report.

Mr. C. Abundo said that the Asian Indoor Games where chess was featured. The number of medals is increased.

**Executive Board accepted.**

**6.4. Report of African Continental President.**

[Annex 65](#) is Continental President's report.

Mr. Ncube briefed the Board. He congratulated Mr. Katende for his trainers' award.

**Executive Board accepted.**

**7. SportAccord.**

Mr. N. Freeman said that he visited this year and Mr Borg was there on behalf of IMSA and Mr. Jarrett as ARISF Auditor. Many talks were held. It is a useful conference.

**8. Any other business.**

**8.1. IMSA.**

2<sup>nd</sup> IMSA Elite Mind Games will be held in Huai'an City, Jiangsu Province, China, 8-16 December 2017.

Mr. G. Borg said that we are finishing the selection process tomorrow. The dates are moved therefore it is a clash with London Open. The lineup is still very strong. Travel expenses are expected in several days. This year is done in advance. It is a very nice event.

## **8.2. Legal Matters.**

Mr. N. Freeman said we have one case in CAS, which is IM F. Braga from Italy who took us to CAS for refusal to grant him a GM title as he had not the rating required.

## **Closing.**

Deputy President G. Makropoulos thanked all the Executive Board members for coming to Antalya and contribution. He said the meeting was productive and went better than he thought it would go at the beginning.

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