



**Report about the General Assembly
of European Chess Union in Heraklion/Greece
on 3 November 2007**

Extracts of the Minutes

3. Report of the President

President Boris Kutin gave his annual report. He pointed out that ECU together with national federations had organized very high level championships, the number of participants became more and more, a lot of top players participated. At the same time the prize fund of our top tournaments is now very attractive.

ECU was informed by the mayor of Herceg Novi that ECU can sign the contract about the land and can start to build the chess palace, which may include a small hotel, rooms for teaching children or to organize events.

Concerning the work on recognition of chess as a sport in Europe the situation is not successful. In 22 countries chess is full member of Olympic Committee and in seven countries chess is affiliated. In Bulgaria, Bosnia & Hercegovina and Montenegro chess will be accepted in the next future.

Concerning the ECU Board meeting in Novi Sad President Kutin informed that the Board made its work in a professional way and during his presidency he never talked to one of the Board members concerning his voting. The final decisions on the bids were made unanimously. During the term of presidency of Boris Kutin 27 federations had organized European championships. Looking only on the top events of ECU Turkey has got 11 events and is on top. Yesterday ECU got the papers that it was sued by the Turkish federation because of its decisions in Novi Sad.

From 1 January 2008 Slovenia will overtake presidency of European Union. In this period the Minister of Sports and the Presidents of Olympic Committees are invited for a meeting from 13 to 16 March 2008. The presidents of chess federations will also be invited to this event.

The re-match Europe against Asia is still in negotiations. A match Europe against rest of the world is planned in Belgrade immediately after the Olympiad in Dresden.

Regarding the inquiry of the Georgian Chess Federation about the legality of having two representatives of the Chess Federation of Montenegro on the ECU Board, Boris Kutin pointed out that at the time of elections he was delegate of Slovenia and Mr. Sakotic was member of Serbia and Montenegro. In the meantime Boris Kutin is no longer delegate of Slovenia due to special problems inside the federation and Vladimir Sakotic is working for Montenegro federation, but still he has the passport of Serbia.

Ali Nihat Yazici asked the Board about the money which should come from MonRoi. A second claim is concerning the ECU website, which was not working for three month. Furthermore he claimed that the bid of Macedonia was changed during the ECU Board meeting and this is not allowed and gave the other bidders a disadvantage. There is no evaluation form for the bid procedure. Turkey sued ECU to find a body to check the minutes of Novi Sad.

The Board submitted a written statement concerning the accusation by the Turkish Chess Federation (annex 2).

Zurab Azmaiparashvili congratulated ECU for all afford in connection with the land in Herceg Novi. Concerning the bid of Georgia for the 2009 Youth championships he wants to know why Georgia lost against Italy.

George Makropoulos congratulated Boris Kutin and ECU for their financial situation, the results with the land in Herceg Novi and affords in connection with the national Olympic Committees. In his opinion the last Board meeting made wrong decisions and ECU does not publish the minutes. This is not understandable and should be changed. The necessary standard for the top events of ECU should not be decreased, it has to be increased. He said that the court to fight against Board decisions is only the General Assembly and not the court in Lausanne. Turkey should stop the court case in Lausanne and the ECU Board should find a solution with Turkey.

Mikko Markkula pointed out that the Board always is responsible to find organizers for all the European events and they have to take care that not only in one part of Europe events are organised. The results of decisions on bids should be transparent and published. Nevertheless the only court for discussions on Board decisions is the General Assembly of ECU.

Kurt Jungwirth thanked Boris Kutin and his ECU Board for all the work they did for chess in Europe. This is one of the reasons why we are faced additional problems in connections with bids for our championships. We have more and more bidders and only one bid can be accepted. He proposed that in future only General Assembly should decide on bids.

Roberto Rivello thanked the ECU Board and the organizers of General Assembly and European Team championship for their work. Concerning the claims against the ECU decision in his opinion the Board has the duty to decide which bid for an event is the best one or should be accepted due to special reasons. There is no competence for the General Assembly to change the Board decision, they may only make comments on it. In the same way he has the personal opinion that the Turkish federation according to FIDE Statutes is not allowed to go directly to the Lausanne court. For the future the bid regulations may be changed by the General Assembly, but the current decision of the Board cannot be changed.

Peter Rajcsanyi pointed out that from the beginning of Boris Kutins presidency he very much supported his program to do a professional work inside ECU. The Statutes and the additional regulations should be renewed in the next future. There are some procedures missing. He has the feeling that Turkish federation and its president was not treated in a proper way by the ECU Board. His motion is that any federation organising an event is not allowed to organize the same event in the following three years. This proposal will be taken up together with the respective motions regarding the change of Tournament Rules.

Mikko Markkula said that ECU is an independent organisation which took over a part of the activities of FIDE. The reports on inspections should be published in the future.

Boris Kutin said that ECU always was happy with the co-operation with Turkish Chess Federation. The problem in Novi Sad had been, that there was only one bid on the table for the European Individual Championships and the Board had to accept it. Concerning the qualification to FIDE World Cup it was a FIDE decision to stop contribution to the prize fund and ECU had to accept it. As long as we had this contribution we had two different championships and the one with much higher prize fund had more qualifiers to FIDE World Cup. Now we have only our prize fund and Bulgaria offered the same amount of money as Turkey. Therefore it was a fair decision that the number of qualifiers was shared equally. Concerning the bid for the 2009 European Club Cup it was not only the difference in accommodation rates which influenced the decision. There was also a much higher prize fund and furthermore in 2008 the event will be organized in Greece.

George Makropoulos proposed to change article C.2 concerning bids and to make it public after a decision of the Board.

Following the proposal of Boris Kutin the General Assembly was given all papers in connection with the bids to be studied by a committee, consisting of Per Ofstad, Peter Rajcsanyi and Kurt Gretener.

Later on Peter Rajcsanyi reported that for checking the bids the inspection report of Italy was missing, this report was handed to the committee. The committee claimed that there was no general evaluation system which has been used.

For the Individual Championships there was only one bid.

For European Club Cup the proposed accommodation was in the bids of Greece and Turkey much better than in the bid of Macedonia.

With respect to the Youth championship the Italian offer seems to be equal to that from Georgia, the Turkish offer and the Macedonian offer are cheaper than the other two bids. The report of inspection in Macedonia was not available in written form.

As a summary the committee declared that the decision of the Board was legally correct.

Ali Nihat Yazici withdrew his motion to cancel the Board decision on the 2009 championships.

Zurab Azmaiparashvili asked the Turkish federation also to withdraw the court case and he asked Vladimir Sakotic to give back the organisation of the European Club Cup to find another organizer.

Kurt Gretener asked to stop the discussion, because the decision of the Board was not illegal.

The result of the committees report was accepted by the General Assembly by one abstention.

Horst Metzinger proposed that the Board should guarantee that for the European Club Cup 2009 in Struga the facilities will be on a high level. Boris Kutin announced that he will do another inspection and report in written form. The General Assembly agreed unanimously.

Concerning the current situation, that two Board members are coming from the same federation, Horst Metzger announced to contact a lawyer if such a situation can be accepted. The General Assembly agreed unanimously.

To find an agreement between ECU Board and Turkish Chess Federation George Makropoulos proposed to write a letter to Turkey and to explain the situation from Novi Sad. Horst Metzger stated that there was never an intention by ECU Board to insult the Turkish Chess Federation. ECU Board regrets if Turkey had such a feeling. Ali Nihat Yazici declared that his federation wants to cancel the Board decision by the General Assembly, to get a strong apologize in writing and to be refunded the costs for the bid and the court case. The proposal of Mr. Makropoulos was accepted by 28 votes in favour and 6 abstention.

Furthermore on proposal of Mr. Makropoulos the General Assembly asked the Turkish Chess Federation to withdraw the court case. The motion was accepted by 28 votes in favour, 2 against, 4 abstention.

8. Motions of Member Federations and the Board

8.1 Proposal of the Board concerning a Disciplinary Panel

The ECU Board proposes to establish a Disciplinary Panel composed by 3 members who are neither members of the Board nor exercise any ECU office. The main idea is to have an independent body which is in charge of monitoring statutory provisions and tournament regulations.

As a first step this Disciplinary Panel should elaborate the necessary change of the statutes and regulations for such a body. The three members shall be lawyers or legally trained people. One of them will be appointed chairman by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly agreed with the proposal.

The members should be appointed for a transitional period until all final stipulations are accepted by the General Assembly. Thereafter the official election should be held.

On proposal of the ECU Board Johan Sigeman from Sweden should be appointed for chairman of this panel. The Board may nominate two more lawyers to this body. The General Assembly agreed unanimously.

Roberto Rivello pointed out that there should be a close connection to FIDE Ethics Committee and their preparations for finding decisions.

Ali Nihat Yazici proposed to include not only disciplinary matters, but also any violation of existing regulations.

8.6 Motion concerning the Bid Procedure

There is a motion of Monaco that in the future the General Assembly should decide on bids concerning European Team Championship, European Club Cup and European Individual Championships instead of the Board. Mr. Makropoulos pointed out that the discussion had not the result that the General Assembly will not trust the board.

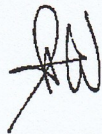
Therefore no change should be made. Ali Nihad Yazici seconded the motion of Monaco.

There were 11 votes in favour, 16 abstentions and 7 against the motion. The motion was accepted.

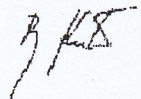
As a consequence written reports on inspection should be forwarded to General Assembly. The current deadlines for bids will not be changed. Bidders are allowed to present their bid at the General Assembly.

Additionally the Board was asked to set up a summary of standards to ensure the necessary quality level for the European championships. Dirk De Ridder and Werner Stubenvoll will forward a proposal to the next Board meeting.

Heraklio, 3 November 2007



Werner Stubenvoll



Boris Kutin
ECU President