

World Youth Championships U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 2005.

General Secretary I. Leong informed the Executive Board that he was in Belfort for the last 2 days, but not in an official capacity. He said that the Championship was awarded in Istanbul, and no official inspection was held until this year, when Mr. Gelfer visited Belfort. The Organisers refused to have proper communications with FIDE and Mr. Leong tried on a personal level, but they were very uncooperative. Mr. Leong also recommended someone from Zone 1.1 to inspect, hoping that this relationship could help to improve the situation. However, the Organisers told Mr. Hamers that he need not have to go, as everything is fine.

Mr. Leong said we have received complaints from more than 12 countries. He proposed to put a press release on the website.

Mr. Sand agreed with Mr. Leong and a press release will be prepared from the Executive Board and also mentioned in the FIDE communiqué.

Mr. Freeman said that the matter came to the Ethics Commission and will be further investigated.

Dr. Rajscanyi made a motion that FIDE should issue a ban of 3 years on the Organiser to organise further FIDE events and for the ECU to consider a similar ban. The ban will have nothing to do with the French Federation. He said that his intention is not to judge the conditions of the organisation, but it is very much connected with the attitude of the Organiser that is not on the level parallel with the level of the World Championships.

Mr. Yazici seconded the motion, but not only for FIDE events, but for any kind of rated events. The Turkish Chess Federation appealed to the Ethics Commission and invited all Federations to send their experiences to the Ethics Commission.

Mr. Kelleher agreed with Dr. Rajscanyi and Mr. Yazici and said that the Ethics Commission would appreciate any submission about their experience of Belfort. As a delegate of the USCF, the Federation is extremely concerned about the conditions in Belfort.

Mr. Walsh concurs with the previous speakers and will submit the report to the Ethics Commission. He said that it is a massive responsibility when organising a children's event, and the Organisers made a massive profit making many people miserable.

Mr. Makropoulos proposed that Mr. Sand prepare a press release together with Dr. Rajscanyi and to present this for a vote.

• **Executive Board approved.**

Mr. Antunac said that FIDE was aware of the problems in Belfort and in the end there was virtually carte blanche to Mr. Touze, because there had not been earlier inspections.

Mr. Makropoulos said that many Federations would join the motion of the Hungarian Federation.

Mr. Herbert expressed the support from the Trinidad and Tobago Federation that was deeply distraught and badly affected Federation; the children were thrown out of their hotel and he supported the motion.

Mr. Metzging said that he is in favour of Dr. Rajscanyi motion, but we should increase a period of banning.

Mr. Makropoulos said that there is a ban because of principle.

Mr. Kutin agreed with Mr. Metzging and proposed at least 5 years, because it was really a crime.

Mr. Sand presented the following draft:

"FIDE has received complaints from twelve Federations regarding the conditions and the circumstances under which the World Youth Championships 2005 in Belfort, France took place. For more than six months prior to the Championships, FIDE on several occasions contacted the Organizers and pointed out several issues and concerns regarding the organization of the Championships. Unfortunately FIDE experienced that it was not possible to communicate properly with the Organizers and they were continuing with their plans without taking into consideration FIDE's advice.

From the complaints received, it is quite obvious that the Championships were not organized on the level that should be expected from this important World event and in accordance to well-established practice. This includes the conditions for the participants, the infrastructure of the Championships and the quality of the management. Many participants and delegations expressed their dissatisfaction in the way they were treated and how their concerns were resolved.

It is very important for FIDE that the World Youth Championships are held in the very best and professional manner and it reflects very badly not only on FIDE but on the whole chess world when we experience unprofessional conducting of the events. Based on the above, the Executive Board decides the following:

1. The Organizer of this event in Belfort, Mr. Touze will not have the right to organize any FIDE event for a period of 5 years with effect from 23rd August, 2005.
2. All the complaints received by the FIDE Secretariat will be handled over to the FIDE Ethics Commission for further examination. The Organizer may present his views in the examination. The Ethics Commission can recommend additional measures to the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board recommends to the European Chess Union to consider issuing a similar resolution regarding the organizer's participation in European chess matters."

Prof. Divinsky asked why there is no representative of the French Chess Federation to give answers.

Mr. Leong said they were asked to come.

Mr. Yazici said that FIDE events mean World Championships, but he proposes any kind of rated tournaments instead of FIDE events.

Dr. Rajscanyi said the original idea was about FIDE Events, but it was decided that it was much better to have the Ethics Commission investigation, which further can make recommendations.

Mr. Sand said that Mr. Arns with a proxy from Mr. Hamers, wanted to make it absolutely clear that the current decision is about the Organiser and not against the French Chess Federation. Mr Sand confirmed that the press release will reflect this.

- **Executive Board approved the decision in respect of the Belfort Organisers.**