

Monday, November 17, 2008

REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DRESDEN, GERMANY

Dear President, Board Members,

My apologies firstly for not being able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. I have requested Mr Geoffrey Borg, FIDE Commercial Director to read the report on my behalf.

1. **FIDE Branch Office, Moscow.** Despite the good intentions of FIDE to setup and register a branch office in Moscow, this process has unfortunately found a number of issues which have prevented the satisfactory conclusion of this essential exercise. The biggest stumbling block has been the failure of FIDE to be officially registered in any country in the world despite its 84 years of existence. Substantial costs have been expended so far and it is now critical that we resolve this matter in the next few months.

A similar process of reviewing the possibility of opening up a branch office in London has been subjected to the same comments by legal advisors in the United Kingdom. The FIDE Office in Athens together with the legal advisor in Lausanne, Switzerland have been co-ordinating this last month to get FIDE officially registered in Switzerland and I augur that this will happen shortly after the GA in Dresden.

2. We have continued to visit several countries across the world with a view of now reviewing more concretely the opportunities for **real estate development** and with it other projects would benefit FIDE such as Academies, museums, world class tournament halls.
3. The subject of academies and supporting materials has been brought up a number of times. Several projects were undertaken in the early part of this year to review the materials used and discussions need to be undertaken within the FIDE Presidential Board and with the appropriate Commission / Committee Chairmen to review which of these projects are worth pursuing.
4. I am also pleased to announce a number of ideas regarding chess events which will help strongly publicize FIDE and chess. In times, which are strongly marked by economic problems and also by political crisis, it is essential that FIDE, through the support of Chess Lane / Global Chess, will take the initiative and organise key events which promote friendship between Federations in regions which are currently suffering from conflict.

These events will be timed to fill in gaps of the already heavy FIDE calendar and will lead up to the celebration of FIDE 85th Anniversary in Moscow in July next year. It will involve full support of international chess and non-chess media to ensure that maximum publicity is obtained for the chess world.

5. It is important as FIDE develops more elite tournaments that we review the system of professional chess. The first objective is to develop a platform which encourages the development of professional chess players and sets up a structure whereby they can be rewarded for their efforts.

This necessitates that FIDE studies its current mode of organizing tournaments and also obtaining greater control over the rights emanating from such tournaments such as copyright of the games. We are currently studying and reviewing the legal framework and organizational setup to have a professional and commercial system in place.

6. Commercial ideas involving the development of an innovative, exclusive portal network have also been worked on by a group of professional web designers and consultants. The development of a new chess portal will be completed in the first quarter of 2009 and new services launched shortly thereafter including chess training software and manuals, competitions, news etc...

Thank you for your kind attention.

David Kaplan
DEVELOPMENT – CEO