## Extraordinary Presidential Board meeting Athens, Greece 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

#### **EXTRACTED MINUTES**

#### 1. Legality of meeting.

Mr. Makropoulos opened the meeting. He said that the opinion of FIDE lawyer, Mr. Reymond, is that the call of the meeting is legal. If there is any doubt about that it will be discussed, otherwise it will be considered that the meeting is legal and they will continue.

Based on legal opinion presented to the Extraordinary Presidential Board meeting, the Board unanimously confirmed the legality of the meeting.

## 2. Powers delegated to the FIDE Deputy President by the FIDE Presidential Board

Mr. Makropoulos said that the second point has to do with the power that the Presidential Board has delegated to the FIDE Deputy President based on the decision of December 2015. There is a decision that the powers have been handed out from the President to the Deputy President. For him and as he believes for the majority of the people here, what is clear is that this decision was talking for all responsibilities of the President not partly for a continent or a country or something internal or external, full responsibilities of the President were passed to the Deputy President, this is clear. He can say that after this because nobody wanted to insult Mr. Ilyumzhinov, everybody has recognised the great service he has done for FIDE and chess all these years, he would say that they have been very careful moving on, there are no FIDE publications or photos where Mr. Makropoulos is going to ceremonies, making speeches and he is acting on behalf of Mr. Ilyumzhinov as President. He said he was careful because he did not want to give the impression that there is no President. FIDE has a President but based on the decision of 2015 he should not be involved in the decision making process and he should not represent FIDE, if he represents the organization there is a problem. He said that he tried to keep a very low profile, everybody can understand this even in New York he tried not to be in the opening and closing ceremony. The only event where he has been to the opening and closing ceremony was Ukraine after they made clear that they did not want Mr. Ilyumzhinov to go there, even if he is a friend with the Mayor. They asked that Mr. Makropoulos should go there. So, it was agreed with Mr. Ilyumzhinov that he would represent FIDE in the opening and closing ceremony. In all other events an effort was made not to give the wrong impression. He said that on the other side the truth is that everybody has been confused and this is a problem because Mr. Ilyumzhinov was always publishing which places he has visited, what he has done, which contract he has signed and at the same time there were contracts for which there was no information that Mr. Ilyumzhinov was signing and based on FIDE Statutes nobody can sign a contract if the Board has not decided about it, other ratified after the signature has been made or before. The information about these contracts was coming from Internet. He said that he can understand the sensitive situation for Mr. Ilyumzhinov who is living in Russia and Americans have put him under sanctions, but he thinks that there has been an over exaggeration. This is something that is being faced as a problem. Many of the Board members are aware that in the United States there is an effort to bring to the court a case against FIDE. There is an investigation and it is in the hand of the Prosecutor to decide if he will send the case to the court. Some people who have bought tickets for the World Championship are accusing FIDE that they have been tricked as Mr. Ilyumzhinov is still the one running the organization and this is forbidden in United States. They claim that they bought tickets from such an organization and the penalty for them can be from \$20 million up to 20 years of prison so they are pushing this to go to the court.

It is also well known that there are problems with the banks. It was necessary to inform them that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is not in power in order to avoid closing FIDE accounts. He said he was taking about UBS in Switzerland. In addition, the insurance company had to be informed that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is not in power in order to keep the contract with them. Even a week before, where an effort was made to send reimbursement of flight tickets for Mr. Ilyumzhinov's trip to Athens, the bank rejected the transaction.

He also said that there is a need to protect FIDE, it is not a personal fight with Mr. Ilyumzhinov. He does not have any ambition to pretend that he is FIDE President. He said many times before that he is not running for President. What he believes is that the right person should be found under this crisis, a person who can help FIDE and get support. Until then, the direction is to protect the organization. He said that in Baku there was an effort to present a vote of no confidence to Mr. Ilyumzhinov and they were fighting against this, explaining our opinion. We said clearly that we believe that Mr. Ilyumzhinov should not run but at that moment there was a feeling that he is not damaging FIDE by staying as a President if he is not really involved in the decision making procedure. He said that there were a lot of discussions with a lot of federations and that Mr. Vega knows with how many federations Mr. Makropoulos has spoken even from Americas.

Back then they were thinking that the situation can be managed but the truth is that there is a problem and he does not know if it is one hundred per cent clear that FIDE is losing a lot of sponsorship from the west but it is obvious that sponsors from the west are very sceptical with dealing with the Organization because of the situation. He said that it is also known that many federations are using the fact that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is under sanctions against FIDE. There are daily fights with these federations and others who have ambitions and plans to take over FIDE. These people are trying to get federations to support them by using this situation. For Mr. Makropoulos the decisions that have been taken should be kept and it should be made even more clear that Mr. Ilyumzhinov will not be representing FIDE.

He said he is not in favor of going to a vote of no confidence, this is his personal opinion. Because if such a decision is passed in the meeting the next step is an Extraordinary General Assembly where Mr. Ilyumzhinov will be asked to leave. He repeated that he was not in favor of this, despite their last fight, for which he said he was not happy about, he did not want to reach such a level of a fight with Kirsan and he does not believe that Kirsan deserves such behaviour. On the other hand, the truth is that FIDE is facing a problem because of this situation that is why he proposed to continue with the decision of 2015 and make it even clearer.

Mr. Gelfer said that he would like to add some points and that his words were mainly directed towards Mr. Ilyumzhinov. There might be a misunderstanding by people and by Mr. Ilyumzhinov that he is doing so many things for FIDE, trying to bring sponsors and events and this is what he gets from Mr. Makropoulos and the Board Members, so some things must be made clear. First of all, from the legal point it is clear and undisputable that the decision of December 2015 to transfer the powers to Mr. Makropoulos can not be cancelled by Mr. Ilyumzhinov because it was a resolution of the Presidential Board. The logic behind this was explained by Mr. Makropoulos but he wanted to repeat it. He said that for Mr. Ilyumzhinov it looks a bit obscure that he is contributing so much to chess and they are stopping his powers, but he should understand that they are protecting the organization and possibly every individual of the Board who can theoretically be exposed to a danger of a legal issue as it is not advisable to have disputes with Americans. Therefore it is not a decision against the President but a decision to protect the organization. He said that it can not be proven that a company is not sponsoring FIDE until Mr. Ilyumzhinov is out of the sanctions list but probably there are several companies and potential sponsors who are looking things from that perspective, thinking that they do not want to mess with Americans, so they avoid business with FIDE. It can be understandable although it is not good. This is the situation and therefore the proposal must be accepted to reconfirm this decision and to make it clear that FIDE is not exposed to Mr. Ilyumzhinov making decisions which bring problems to the organization. He is sure that Mr. Ilyumzhinov does not want to bring such problems as he is working for FIDE for more than 20 years.

Mr. Vega said that first of all he respects the President too much, he has been fighting for him since 1996 and it can not be said that he is against the Russian federation because he has defended them. He was President of the Cuban Chess Federation long time ago and he had a capital role in the Extraordinary Assembly where Mr. Fischer set the change of the rules for the World Championship. He said that he did not understand what was being discussed because there is already the decision of 2015, the transfer of the power and this remains in force so he did not know why this had to be ratified. If there was any change it must be proposed but the decision remains in force so for him the situation is very clear.

Mr. Al-Hitmi said that there is a problem which is basically simple but they are very emotional about it. FIDE is an organization that is led by a Board and this Board has a President. Normally in these cases the organization will run very well until one of these elements has some kind of a problem. The President had a personal problem which had nothing to do with the organization, it was created between his personal activities and the United States government. Unfortunately this personal problem is affecting FIDE and though the Board decided to protect the organization in one way or another, the effort was made it in a soft way and took very long time. It is about time that a decision is taken in agreement with the President on how to transfer his powers and how to act from now until the General Assembly. If an agreement is not reached from that day until the General Assembly next year he could not see the future of FIDE, there will be a split and others from outside the Board will interfere, everything will be chaotic and it will take years to recover from that situation. He said that the agreement with the President should be taken under consideration of his dignity because after all he represents all of them and he has done a lot of good work for FIDE in the last 22 years. He did not want to propose anything but he has seen it in so many other organizations that he has worked with, that when a senior member had a problem with the law, how important is to tackle it, isolate it and keep the organization moving forward, but they have to do it in the right way for them and the public. He said that there should be an agreement that they are going to honor and implement. If everybody starts sending publications to the media and fight each other, it will not be a healthy approach for both sides. He said nobody is going against the President or any member of FIDE, frankly speaking he could vote for any of the Board members to become President, he had no hesitation on that as he does not want a stranger to run FIDE. He also said that if there will not be a clear candidate for the next Elections it will be a very difficult situation. There will be people from all over the world coming, each of them with an ambition, and as he mentioned to Mr. Makropoulos the day before he did not want that somebody comes and buys votes. He proposed to maintain their dignity, the President's dignity and to work together in order to solve that problem.

Ms. Marinello said that she has high regards for the President as he has been giving a lot to chess during the last 22 years. She said that Mr. Ilyumzhinov has given huge amount of money for chess and she thought it would be very fortunate to find somebody who could give even 10% of what Mr. Ilyumzhinov has given to chess. However they were facing a delicate situation. In her case she has dual citizenship, she is a citizen of United States, she lives, votes and pays taxes there and she is subject to the United States laws and needs to comply with everything the law imposes. It is known that the United States control most of the banking and financial system across the world and FIDE needs protection. It is very important to make sure that FIDE can function in order to preserve their integrity and their good image. There are some things she was concerned about and she would like to ask Mr. Ilyumzhinov about an incident. The previous week she was contacted by someone named Glen Stark, he called her several times and then he sent her an email. He was saying that he is the person in charge of Mr. Ilyumzhinov's fund so she called him to learn more information as she has never heard of him before. She asked him to introduce himself and he said his name is Glen Stark, that he is a citizen of United States, that he sent her an email and that he is human. Then Ms. Marinello said ok but she would like to know more about him but he got upset and started raising his voice. She replied that she did not like the way he was speaking to her so it is not possible to have a conversation with him. She was worried because if this person is a citizen of United States involved in any financial dealings then it is necessary to be extremely careful to protect FIDE from not having any connections with that. She said that all Board members are working for chess, they are there for FIDE, to make sure that the organization and the federations are protected and that chess will continue growing. In her view mixing things is complicated. She said politics in the world are very complicated and she is very open minded and understands that. Even the position of her federation is complicated, 4 members are connected to the military but in this case they say it is not their problem and FIDE has to deal with it. It is important to make sure that people who are personally involved with Mr. Ilyumzhinov in terms of business are not connected to chess people. Hopefully the situation will be sorted out and everything will be fine with Mr. Ilyumzhinov.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that nobody has any doubts about what Mr. Ilyumzhinov has done in his life and he was not going to speak about this because even their children are aware of his contributions. About the situation, he said that this is life, even if you like or dislike something you are reaching a point where it is very difficult to continue the same way and

you have to find a solution, to find the best way for everybody, for the family. He did not think that any of them was happy in 2015 when Mr. Ilyumzhinov was put in the list of sanctions by United States. On that moment the best solution was found to protect him and the organization and even though there were several messages from the bank FIDE survived and goes on. Also there was a very clear decision that Mr. Ilyumzhinov would try to get out from this list and if he would succeed that for them would be the best way, if not unfortunately it would not be possible to continue the same way. The last days he did not understand why Mr. Ilyumzhinov and the Russians wanted to introduce such a theory, that there is some kind of conspiracy against him. He did not think that any of them has anything personal against Mr. Ilyumzhinov, all of them and some very actively are in the process of finding a solution that would be the best for Mr. Ilyumzhinov and for FIDE and he knows that very well. According to him, they really tried to find the best solution and if Mr. Ilyumzhinov can not continue to be President in the future, maybe as Mr. Al-Hitmi said, to find somebody among them and Mr. Ilyumzhinov will be their team member for life. He said that they were there because this is a painful situation for them and he really wanted to thank Mr. Ilyumzhinov who took it very personal beside all these statements and was present in the meeting. It also means he was willing to solve the problem in the best way and all of them were there to protect him and FIDE.

Mr. Tolentino agreed with Mr. Al-Hitmi that a decision had to be made before leaving Athens and it must not be forgotten that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is a mandate up to 2018. As Mr. Makropoulos said they do not want to go to a General Assembly, even with the 2/3 of the Executive Board coming from the Ethics Commission, they would not like to do that so it is only Mr. Ilyumzhinov who can make a decision for this. As Mr. Campomanes was always saying to him they have to save the organization, they have to save FIDE first. He said they are in the meeting not only to ratify the December 2015 resolution but also to implement that decision because he believes it was not implemented totally. He concluded by saying that for sure they have to make a decision in a right legal procedure for that resolution.

Mr. Barajas said that everyone has recognized the job that Mr. Ilyumzhinov has done all this time for chess but as a leader he should recognize his responsibilities. Now it does not matter if he is innocent, the important thing is that United States persists and there is a problem that is affecting people and they should think of FIDE first. It is more important to think about the health of the institution before any person.

Dr. Siegel informed the Presidential Board that the amount of 241,000 Euros debt of Mr. Ilyumzhinov has been received. The Board was also informed by Mr. Makropoulos regarding the problem with the Swiss banks. Indeed UBS denied the payment for Mr. Ilyumzhinov's ticket to the last Presidential Board meeting and this shows in a way that they are confronted with the unfortunate problem that Mr. Ilyumzhinov is on the black list by the United States. This situation interferes already with FIDE. From the Treasurer's point of view, he added that they were told to pay this amount for the ticket to an account of Mr. Balgabaev and he said no because he does not think the Treasurer or FIDE should support in any way a kind of bypassing of what the bank is saying. He said that he will never allow any attempts to such bypassing methods. Regarding the other issue, he agreed with all the speakers that a solution must be found, a solution which can be in favor for both sides and which could be supported from both sides. He also had a wish for afterwards to avoid

starting again a fight in the media. From one day to the other, there is a letter, then another letter and FIDE is damaged by this behavior.

Mr. Ncube said he would not repeat what has already been heard about the contribution of Mr. Ilyumzhinov to the chess world. At the moment as they have already pushed this situation in the public, the entire world is looking at them and there are interested parties, especially their opponents. There are people who are looking how they are going to deal with this matter for their own interest and will try to take part of their obligations. How the current situation is dealt, for him it is going to determine how they move forward. He said that they have a responsibility to the chess world to show that they are responsible people in terms of how they deal with their matters and they can fight among themselves, as they have their differences, but the most important thing is what picture they are sending outside. It is important to show that they are people who can work together. He said that they should be looking for justice for FIDE, for Mr. Ilyumzhinov, for the chess world and people outside must be able to say ok they have dealt with this matter and we are proud for them. A lot of people outside are already proud for what they are doing. In all profitable organizations people make mistakes, the point is how to correct them and move forward because it is the future and they must bear their responsibilities. There is a mandate up to 2018 and whatever will be decided it is for the future. Personally, he did not like the way things are thrown into the public because there are certain things that when they say they will be dealt in a closed session it means to be dealt among themselves. If they, as representatives of the chess world throw these in the public they must be mindful that there are people who will want to throw it back to them in one way or the other. They are monitoring, then they will reach a point when they will say these are the people who want to run chess, do you really believe in them? So in the answer of how they deal with this at the moment, how they are going to be looked at from the chess world, the supporters and opponents, they must do justice and it must be seen from the outside world that they take responsibilities as leaders of FIDE.

Mr. Bastian thought as everyone said, that they have to protect Mr. Ilyumzhinov and FIDE. He believed that an agreement must be found on that day, to avoid going to media and to see what can be done to honor him, for what he has done for them.

Mr. Kutin said that they are very proud of the motto "Gens una sumus" but they must prove that they deserve such motto. He said that as humans they are all making mistakes even daily and if there is a real wish the problem can be solved. He added that there are a lot of enemies and they should be careful. He agreed with Mr. Al- Hitmi that they have to leave the meeting with a unanimous decision.

Mr. Sundar said that Mr. Ilyumzhinov was there, the meeting was legal and thanked him for attending it. He mentioned that everybody knows what is happening, there is no need to emphasize it but he had an appeal. He suggested that Mr. Makropoulos, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Ilyumzhinov and some of the others elders like Mr. Gelfer and Mr. Al-Htimi should break the meeting for 10 minutes and go outside, talk to each other and come back with a solution. If that can be done he was sure they would be able to find a good solution. He said that FIDE needs Mr. Ilyumzhinov more than he needs FIDE and he should have this in mind. The elders should solve the problem, the organization is very big and they should not become a laughing stand in front of the public. He said the elders have a responsibility,

there is something to be given and to be taken, and they must burry their differences. He wanted to make clear that Mr. Ilyumzhinov does not think the Board members are against him, they are all there for FIDE, just FIDE, they all love this organization and want it to flourish and for him that problem could be solved if these gentlemen sit together for 10 minutes. He strongly believed that a solution would be found and it would be welcomed by everyone.

Mr. Makropoulos said that first of all he would like to say a few words because Mr. Sundar was giving the impression that there is somehow a personal fight between him, Mr. Ilyumzhinov and Mr. Freeman. He underlined that he did not have any personal fight with Mr. Ilyumzhinov. He said it was wrong that after the previous meeting in Athens, which was about to finish, Mr. Ilyumzhinov raised the problem with Agon and the fight was escalated. After what happened, he believed it was wrong that Mr. Ilyumzhinov went back to Russia and started giving interviews saying about Americans that were behind this effort of people from FIDE, at the beginning it was some hacker that controlled FIDE website, then it was Americans and Mr. Kasparov that wanted to fire Mr. Ilyumzhinov and take his position before the next elections and that he and Mr. Freeman were leading this coup in FIDE. He said that everybody there and first of all Mr. Ilyumzhinov knows that there was not such an attempt, nobody asked Mr. Ilyumzhinov during the meeting to resign or was pushing him to resign. Of course there have been long discussions with Mr. Ilyumzhinov since a year before about the next elections and what should be done but nobody asked him to resign. He said that he knows very well and everybody at least in that room knows that Mr. Makropoulos is one of those who strongly supports the idea that Mr. Ilyumzhinov should not be pushed to resign and they should not ask him to go out of FIDE. He said that from this point, which is the truth, to go to a situation where the media, the Russian federation and Russian Officials are getting the impression that there was an effort in the previous meeting to kick out Mr. Ilyumzhinov, this for him is a tragedy for FIDE. He believes that Mr. Ilyumzhinov actually succeeded to make things worse. There is a huge damage because of this situation. First of all they are getting information that Russian federation can start cancelling sponsorship for Agon or their events if they are not happy with the decision of the current meeting, Mr. Balgabaev delivered this message to Mr. Gelfer, to forward it to him.

Mr. Gelfer confirmed the information about the message from Mr. Balgabaev.

Mr. Makropoulos continued by saying that PhosAgro cancelled the contract with Agon. Mr. Balgabaev gave the same information to Mr. Merenzon the previous day. He does not know who called them, maybe it happened just because what was going on in the media. So it is obvious that because of this wrong information that Mr. Ilyumzhinov gave to the media problems have been created. Mr. Makropoulos added that in all these exchanges of emails and letters there is only one letter from him which was published on FIDE website where he said what has really happened in that meeting. He did not give interviews although many journalists from around the world were calling him. He tried not to give interviews because from his side he did not want to escalate more the difficult situation that they are facing. He believes that if they want to protect FIDE things can not be presented the way some people like because it is in their favor. He can understand the problem of Mr. Ilyumzhinov being in Russia, everybody is watching what is going on in FIDE and all these efforts there, because

of the sanctions that he unfortunately faces, to show that nothing has been changed in FIDE. He said that this is not true of course, but from this point to the point that there are so many interviews that he does not give the truth and proceeds with even personal attacks to him, this is unacceptable. For example he claimed that Mr. Makropoulos met along with Mr. Kasparov and went to Mr. Ilyumzhinov before the Olympiad 1994 to ask money. He made it clear that he never went to meet Mr. Ilyumzhinov with Mr. Kasparov to ask for money. The first time he met with Mr. Ilyumzhinov was in 1995 in Paris, Maybe Mr. Kasparov went for that purpose but not with him. Another example is that according to the interviews of Mr. Ilyumzhinov he asked Mr. Savvidis to give money for his campaign for the Greek chess federation elections. Mr. Savvidis is a Greek Russian who is living now in Greece. He helped them by giving money to federation thanks to Mr. Ilyumzhinov but not for his elections. He said that they are not spending money in the elections in Greece. There is as a principle, one year before the elections they do not give even chess sets and chess clocks to the clubs to avoid creating the impression that they are trying to bribe the clubs. Mr. Ilyumzhinov was saying that he asked Mr. Savvidis to give him money for the campaign and that he also did not know why they were asking money, the Minister did not want to organize the Olympiad or the money has disappeared so according to Mr. Ilyumzhinov not only Mr. Makropoulos was connected to Mr. Kasparov but he was also probably in some dirty business, where money has disappeared from the Olympiad, something which is not true of course. He said that the Minister back then did not want to organize the Olympiad and this is mainly a mistake of FIDE, because they were organizing the Olympiad every 4 years and in one moment FIDE made a decision to give the event to Puerto Rico which could not organize it and then Mr. Campomanes gave it to Philippines. When they went back to the Minister he said sorry guys FIDE made this change, why they should pay now for the Olympiad? And of course there were other fights with Mr. Campomanes, this was the truth and Mr. Ilyumzhinov was trying to give now a different picture, that Mr. Makropoulos who is friend with Mr. Kasparov was asking money from him for the Olympiad which is not true, that the money has disappeared which is not true and that him and Mr. Freeman are leading this revolution and there was a big effort in the Board to kick him out. It is well known that none of this is true, the questions is how can this be fixed. He said this was a big problem for their relations with the Russian federation, he did not know if Mr. Filatov or Mr. Peskov or other people like the previous Minister of Sports, Mr. Mutko know the truth and that he would like to actually meet with these people and also speak to them about the future of FIDE. He believes he should explain the situation and tell them that we do not have any problem with Russia or with Mr. Ilyumzhinov as a person, but we are facing objective problems. By going into a fight we will get worse results.

Mr. Vega said that first of all he strongly rejects the theory about coups because nobody from the Board has organized a coup. He added that he was also a target of lots of rumors, one of which was that he was the master mind of the motion by Jamaica to remove the President in Baku but he had nothing to do with it. Secondly there was the rumor that he was part of the coup, however as Mr. Bagabaev is Mr. Ilyumzhinov's employee he believes that anything that Mr. Balgabaev is saying it also represents the opinion of Mr. Ilyumzhinov because he is not a member of the Presidential Board so Mr. Ilyumzhinov has to be very careful with what his employee is saying. He concluded by saying that even his status with his wife has been gossiped, that they have been divorced which as he said is an absolute lie.

Mr. Ncube said that personally he thought that they should move forward and overcome the mistakes that have been created up to then. He also wanted to add on what Mr. Sundar has mentioned. He believes that the context from which he is looking at the situation is not from the perspective of personal differences, what he was trying to do was to get a situation where there is an agreement. There is a provision for that as seniors and he agreed that they go out, have a meeting of 10-20 minutes and come back and then they can all continue the meeting, this is his view.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili replied that he did not understand this point because they came here to discuss all together and there is a suggestion again to break the meeting. He said there is nothing to hide so there is no problem to speak from that floor. He said that he would like to listen what Mr. Ilyumzhinov had to say.

Mr. Freeman said that as the Executive Director he has no say in any political matters of FIDE, he purely acts on the instructions of the Board and he is in no way involved in any political discussions. He wanted to make clear that he was purely undertaking his duty as the Executive Director and was saying what the Board had agreed to.

Mr. Ncube said that when he agreed with the proposal of Mr. Sundar he was not suggesting that there was something to hide, all he was saying was to find a way to produce a solution in order to go forward.

Mr. Borg said he was not going to repeat what has already been said. A new information is that last week he was in SportAccord and he can tell that FIDE was the topic of discussion there but not on a positive light, because all the other federations are looking at FIDE with a certain amount of derision, which means ridicule. This was probably the first time he has been to SportAccord and he had been questioned by so many International federations as to what is happening. He said they are defensive at the moment something which is not good. Regarding agreements, they had several conversations with Mr. Ilyumzhinov as Mr. Makropoulos has indicated. He said the situation is very difficult, like going on a divorce and things are getting acrimonious, which means very bitter, and a lot of the accusations coming out in the media have not helped. It is useless for him to say what could have been done that day, many things could have been done but they were not done. He said that they need to understand that for FIDE to get bear and stronger they have a very big dilemma. Mr. Ilyumzhinov could stay in the position of President, because he has certain obligations and responsibilities in Russia but with the powers that go with this position it is clear that they can not carry on as they are creating too much conflict for them. It is very clear that if Mr. Ilyumzhinov goes and makes a statement in media it may antagonize the International Olympic Committee because he may believe one line of action while FIDE is not actually subscribed to this line of actions. They would then have to explain to the International Olympic Committee that it is not FIDE but it is coming from Mr. Ilyumzhinov's capacity as a person, but he is claiming it as a President. These sort of statements have to stop because they put them in a bad position so moving forward in whatever compromise they agree they need to understand that statements have to be made in conjunction with them. That is why even back in October they said guys stop making any statements when journalists approach. The moment the news broke about Mr. Ilyumzhinov, he said he was in the same situation as Mr. Makropoulos, he was approached by journalists and he asked them to refer to FIDE office, he has his opinions but they are not to be published. What is important is to protect FIDE. The main way to move forward is to understand with Mr. Ilyumzhinov how he would like to handle this, they do not want escalation. If the situation needs to go to escalation they understand but they are here to find solutions for FIDE and he is sure Mr. Ilyumzhinov does not want escalation. This would not be good for him, for them and FIDE will survive in another format where many people will be hurt. He repeated that they need to move forward. Realistically they need to listen to Mr. Ilyumzhinov, what is his plan, what does he have in mind, does it fit within FIDE plans, does it fit within their objectives. They had these discussions many times and he knows it is hard for Mr. Ilyumzhinov to accept this, it is difficult to leave a baby, to leave a marriage which has been going on for 22-25 years but the point is that they need to move forward, they can not continue like that because it will escalate and this is the biggest problem.

Ms. Fierro said that she agrees that they are passing through a complicated situation and after all this became public it only damaged the organization so she thinks they should solve the problem in a democratic manner and they should try to think about FIDE and not to fight publically because then they are damaging the reputation of the organization and of chess. What is necessary was to find a solution and go ahead and continue working for chess.

Mr. Al- Hitmi thought that people already gave their opinion and it was about time to take one step forward and choose two or three of them to draft an agreement, present it to the President and discuss it with him otherwise they would just keep talking. He said that a letter or a paragraph must be drafted and negotiations should be based on that paper.

Dr. Siegel said that he absolutely agreed with the opinion of Mr. Al-Hitmi but he though almost as the entire Board has spoken one person was not given a chance to say anything, he believed they should be fair and listen to the view of Mr. Ilyumzhinov.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov said that he is thankful to Mr. Makropoulos for calling the Extraordinary Board Meeting in Athens. Last time they were here they had a lot of emotions and if his emotions were harmful for some of them he really wanted to apology. He never wanted any of them to be hurt by him that is why now he wanted to share with them what he thought about the current situation and the future. They have a Russian saying that whatever is done is for the best. Indeed he was thinking to resign and he asked Ms. Tsedenova to prepare a short letter of gratitude addressed to all federations, a letter of resignation and Ms. Tsedenova asked him if he had thought it over well. He had to ask for consultation and advice from the members of his ticket and he also had to consult the federations which actually submitted his candidacy and first of all the Russian chess federation, therefore he arranged the meeting for 12.00 the next day after his arrival back to Russia. In the Russian chess federation he met with Mr. Filatov and the assistant of President Putin. He said that emotions are behind in the past and they have to think how to move forward. He wants to work together with the members of the Presidential Board and Presidents of national chess federations because he realised that chess is inseparable from him. He continued that Mr. Borg can confirm that they have discussed many times that he would leave the chess world completely, he will not be seen in any chess event and he will only focus on business. He really wanted to leave chess 100 per cent without living any trace behind and cut all his ties to chess. He really thinks that these 23 years that he has served chess are enough and he has given all of him to chess. He said he would be back to his family, to his children and to his favorite past time making money. Before chess his hobby was to make money but after he got involved into chess his hobby became spending money. Everybody has his ups and downs and several years ago the situation aroused when his money was over. He sold three of his private jets and the last plane he sold was a Falcon and he built a large Buddhist temple in Elista and he sold three houses to organize the latest chess events but everything comes to an end and the crisis that took place two weeks ago was an instance for him. On the other hand, every cloud has its silver lining and this situation has awoken his friends and associates in realizing the seriousness of the situation, so they decided to support him. His crisis is over and now he would like to share his ideas about the future. In his opinion FIDE is the most powerful organization, an organization which is making progress and is getting more and more serious. He visits various countries on a weekly basis. The Secretary General of Unesco, Ms. Bokova, when they met in Paris told him that he is the most travelled official of an International federation. Two hours ago he came here from Turkmenistan where he met heads of the National Olympic Committees and Sheikh Al-Sabah who is the President of Association of National Olympic Committees. During the discussions they all said that chess should become member of their family. That night he would be travelling to Switzerland to open the Victor Korchnoi memorial the next day in Zurich and his friend has provided \$100,000 for this tournament. Then he is going to London, Brussels and Seoul and he will be back home in ten days. He sees that in every country his visits chess is very popular and it is growing more thanks to their joint efforts and he would like to underline the contribution of each national federation and each individual at this table, all of them have their families and their respective main work but they give part of their time to chess. Now he feels that he receives more and more support not only in Russia but in other countries. The day before he met with the Minister of Sports of Turkmenistan, its National Committee and the Minister of Education and they expressed their wish to organise several chess events. This year they want to organise the central Asian Cup and then they are ready to have a Grand Prix in Ashgabat with a further initiative to bid for the World Cup and Chess Olympiad. They have built a special Olympic village in Ashgabat for the Asian games this year. He said they should look at raising around 20 million Euros as a total budget and they will consider this proposal. In Seoul together with the former Vice President of South Korea, Mr. Bach and other officials they are going to open a charity foundation which will be dedicated to the development of chess and it will cover the Asian region, Austria and Oceania. By the end of the month the same type of institution will open in Brussels which will cover the European Continent and Africa. They did open the foundation in the United States and on 20th April there will be the opening ceremony where ambassadors of various countries will be invited. A chess school of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov will also open in Washington DC. If he is not provided with an entry visa to United States by that date he will be opening this school via skype. As for sanctions, they are working very hard on lifting the sanctions. On 25th November when he declared that he will sue the United States Department of Treasury nobody really believed him. He hired the best lawyers of the United States and today a licence from the Ministry of Justice should be received by Robert Amsterdam. He is a new lawyer with whom they are working together and he is also defending the government of Turkey. In one and a half year working with OFAC and the Department of Justice he understood that this was a purely political decision.

The accusation of Mr. Kasparov and others regarding his so called irregular commercial activities has now passed. He said that it is Mr. Kasparov who is behind these sanctions and if they recall at the Congress of 2014, Mr. Kasparov was saying that Mr. Ilyumzhinov, Mr. Filatov and some others as Putin's friends they should be sanctioned. This is also substantiated by his interviews in mass media and his appeals to the State Department.

Mr. Kasparov has visited on several occasions official bodies of the United States administration with a request to include him into the sanctions. After the change of President and administration in the United States half of the people that were working there have now changed, only Mr. Shubin stayed but he also changed his job. He met on several occasions in Europe with legal representatives of several American companies, he answered all their questions and he asked them to go to the United States so that he can go through the polygraph, the lie detector. As for tickets and his commercial activities, he continues travelling, he continues buying tickets not only for Delta but within Europe he travels with Lufthansa or Swissair and he is staying at hotels where he pays with his credit cards or credits cards of his companions for example in Zurich, Falcon company will be covering his stay. In no way he wants to harm the image of FIDE and its financial activities, he is trying to protect it and therefore when he travels he always sees people's reactions and for him there is no change. He is also involved in several large scale commercial state projects for some countries of the European Union and some Asian and Pacific region countries. He also became the member of the Board in several national companies. Next week they should follow him in the media, they will be two press releases of large companies where he is appointed as Chairman of the Board. He said the lawyers are very cautious, they are checking everything, all the procedures and they are aware of him being in the OFAC sanctions list but so far they have not found any limitations. Each step he takes is coordinated with his United States lawyers, the only limitations for him are that he can not use the United States currency and that the amount of shares he can have in a certain company should not be over 50 per cent. He wanted to check this by creating Kirsan fund which was registered in United States, where he had 50 per cent of shares and the rest belong to several United States citizens. Control organs of the United States were aware of this and there were no limitations. Now he started interacting with political advisors and assistants to the President of United States. He has already started receiving proposals from them and he also confirmed his readiness to cooperate with the United States President's administration to serve as a mediator on working in various hot regions of our planet. Also he wrote to the President of United States with an appeal to provide him with a United States citizenship on an emergency basis, without having to wait. This is going on in a constant, permanent basis. His lawyers and personally him first of all are confident that they will succeed or at least they will come to a court hearing. The pre court negotiations are taking place now, that is why the aim of his trip to London will be to meet with the officials or representatives of the United States department of Treasury. So, regarding the sanctions his work is going on, the amount he has spent so far in all this is 600,000 Euros which he officially paid from his personal account and also he paid to FIDE the outstanding amount of 241,000 Euros from the account of the company. Next year is the FIDE elections, it has been a difficult decision whether to remain in chess or not, it was a very tough moral choice for him but now he realises that the potential he has should serve chess. He said he works hard and either he gets everything or he loses everything. He thought that he could leave chess and forget about chess therefore they have been witnessing his emotions here. This

was the first time that he actually had such an outburst because chess is his everything and many people were thinking that his thinking is not realistic but he is sure that in some years they will reach 1 billion chess players in the world. For the past twenty years all his and his friends' money have been spent on official FIDE tournaments, World Championships, Chess Olympiads and Grand Prix. In his opinion now professional chess players have very comfortable lives, they saved women's chess and when he speaks to professional chess players they complain that the calendar is full, there are too many tournaments therefore they are not able to participate in all of them. In Singapore when they had a Board meeting in December 1995 he said that the prize fund of the World Championship will be \$ 5 million but nobody believed him. At that period it was something unrealistic and many journalists and chess players were making fun of him because of this but they did organise the World Championship with a prize fund of \$ 5 million in Lausanne. Now his thinking is to have \$ 30 million available for Chess in Schools program, Chess in Villages program, Chess in Families program and he has started to accumulate all the money that will be transferred for this fund and he has received the support of the State level from Russia. Maybe this conflict has actually made several leading officials of Russia more active and they realised that they need to support him and he has 100 per cent support from the President of Russia. Now he thinks that they all have to work in a normal mode and the money that will be accumulated should only go for grass-root chess and they should create together a special plan for each of the Continents along these lines. This is not something big, they are aware that the total amount which has been invested by him to professional chess is about \$ 100 million and he is confident that they will find money for grass-root chess and they have already spoken with potential sponsors in the United States, Europe and South Korea. He asked the Board to note the dates of 23th and 24th April where he will meet with some representatives of companies and former President of South Korea. He is concentrated now in this direction and he thinks that this crisis and these emotions he has lived in Athens two weeks before were actually some kind of a push for him in order to concentrate and have a clear vision and clear objectives in front of him. He concluded that this is the direction he wants to work together with them and whatever decision the Board takes he will agree to it.

Dr. Siegel said that he was not satisfied because they have heard from different Board members which problems they are facing but in a way he heard about things that could happen in the future and some money issues. He said that they do not face a money problem, they face a political problem and he did not hear a solution to this, therefore they need to discuss the matter again even to refresh the appeal of Mr. Sundar to discuss it in a smaller group. He did not know if this is better or not but so far he did not hear solutions to the problems they have discussed before.

Mr. Makropoulos said that he would address some words to Mr. Ilymzhinov mainly and if anybody thought he was wrong to correct him. He agreed with Dr. Siegel and had the feeling that Mr. Ilyumzhinov was in a different meeting. This was a meeting where some issues have been raised by everybody and they were discussions on what to do to solve them and Mr. Ilyumzhinov informed them that he would continue doing more from what he was told today not to do. Maybe he thinks that all this announcements about money are impressing people. He said that he did not know how many people believe all these stories,

he knows a lot of people that are laughing about this, even from the Board. Actually he did not know if Mr. Ilyumzhinov tried to provoke the United States with all these statements that he was making about funds there, this is not good for FIDE. He did not know why he wanted a fund in the United States, why his name had to be connected with business there because he is under specific sanctions, he can not deal with money in that territory. He did not know who these people are, Ms. Marinello mentioned one guy before, she did not mention another lady who called her and was even threatening her that she might have an accident if she went to Athens for the Extraordinary Presidential Board meeting. He said to Mr. Ilyumzhinov that they do not want this mess, they want a low profile and they want to find an agreement with him to see who can really be the next candidate because whatever he is saying about the sanctions in the United States, that in the next two years the sanctions will be cancelled, nobody believed it in that room, and he asked the Board members to correct him if he was wrong, probably the sanctions will go on for more than two years. The situation between United States and Syria is getting worse and he hopes that the situation between United States and Russia will not get worse. He said that because Mr. Ilyumzhinov's sanctions have to do with supposed actions he had in Syria and he is one of those who does not believe that he had any illegal business there, he believes what Mr. Ilyumzhinov is saying that he is completely innocent in this matter, but they will not take his name out. It would be very difficult for the current President of United States to choose one person to get out of the sanctions list, on the other hand they are taking about more sanctions to the individuals who are doing business with Syria. Regarding the solution to the issues, for him it is generous that Mr. Ilyumzhinov said that whatever their decision is he will follow it. What they are asking him is to keep a low profile, to stop trying to provoke the media and do things that they are not helping FIDE. He said that Mr. Ilyumzhinov thinks that his actions are helping them and he would be happy if he could have an organization for Chess in Schools and do whatever he wants as Kirsan Ilyumzhinov but in the moment he starts making declarations connecting all the things that he is dreaming to do, and he can say they are very nice dreams, with his vision for FIDE and tries to show that nothing has changed, everything is normal and under control, that is really not helping them. Coming back to the main point, that is why he is asking from the Board to make sure that the decision from December 2015 remains and that they clarify that the powers of the President as described in Chapter 9 of the FIDE Statutes are passed to the Deputy President.

Mr. Vega said that he supported Mr. Makropoulos view. He also said that Dr. Siegel was right, they are not facing an economic problem but a political one. This was clear for him and it is necessary to put a stop to this situation.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that he paid attention to the last words of Mr. Ilyumzhinov that whatever they decide he will follow, about the rest of his speech they have heard this information many times. When the Board kept silence and heard the President they once again showed their respect to him so he urged Mr. Ilyumzhinov to also show respect to the Board.

Mr. Al-Hitmi said that he came to the meeting to get a decision. They have very short time and the discussion has not gone anywhere so far. They have a decision made some years before and they can implement it, if the President is willing to accept that then it is fine, if not they should take another measurement and enforce it. This is his position, he said he is

not leaving the meeting without a decision. He mentioned that he has a lot of political pressure regarding this and this is not because of the United States sanctions it is also goes beyond that but he did want to review his political point view. Regarding the lifting of sanctions he doubts it because the situation in Syria has escalated, United States bombarded a Syrian base and the next day Russia bombarded a block and killed more than two hundred people while injured many from which half of them are children. He said that there is no doubt the situation in Middle East will escalate. He said that they had to take a decision, either to honor their earlier decision and the President keeps a low profile until 2018 and to promise not to run and in return he will be Honorary President for life with a voting or the Board has to take this measurement further. He said that this has to be clear and the decision has to be made, this is the minimum that he could accept. If the Board was not going to fulfill his minimum wish, he did not want to be part of it and he would do what he needed to do by himself.

Mr. Makropoulos said that the proposal is that the previous decision remains and that the Board will clarify what is mentioned in the Statutes about the powers of the President which are passed to the Deputy President.

Mr. Gelfer said that he agrees to this proposal and wanted to clarify that they are proceeding in protecting FIDE and they would like to make clear what the meaning of the decision of December 2015 is. He added that as they were several declarations which they could be called misunderstandings about Mr. Ilyumzhinov's resignation he would like to start with his. People are asking what is going on in FIDE, did he resign or not. He would suggest to start the statement with making the situation from this regard clear.

Dr. Siegel said that they have to clarify what they have meant on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015, there is no sense to just say yes they approve it again. They need to clarify what they have meant with this otherwise they will face the same problems again.

Ms. Tulay said that they had a decision in December 2015 and there were some problems as all of them know in the meeting of two weeks ago but about the 2015 December she wondered if they have to vote for it again, maybe they can clarify the powers that have been transferred but the decision is still on the table, she wanted to clarify if there is any appeal to that decision that they have to vote for. If some of the Board members want to vote again if there will be authorization for that they can vote but she thinks that the decision is still valid.

Mr. Makropoulos said that they need a decision that they would all agree with, they were going to vote and if there was somebody that did not agree they will discuss, otherwise if the decision is unanimous, that will be it.

Mr. Sundar said that nobody has appealed against the December 2015 decision. In this meeting they want to clarify that the decision taken back then is still in force but as Dr. Siegel said they need to add something more to make it perfect.

Mr. Makropoulos said that he explained that Chapter 9 should be included in the decision.

The Board unanimously reconfirmed its decision of 6th December 2015 and it is

#### reproduced hereunder:

"Mr. Ilyumzhinov's decision to withdraw from any legal, financial and business operations of FIDE is to enable him to concentrate on clearing the situation with the US Department of the Treasury. Until further notice, under section A.9.5 of the FIDE Statutes, if the President: "duly authorises, then he can be represented by the Deputy President who shall exercise the powers of the President. The Deputy President can thus represent FIDE officially and can solely sign for FIDE." Therefore Mr. Makropoulos will now be exercising these powers and representing FIDE officially.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov advised that he has initiated legal procedures in the US aiming to request additional information and reverse restrictive measures put by the US Department of the Treasury. During the next Presidential Board meeting, Mr. Ilyumzhinov will update the Board as to the progress of the legal procedures

In the circumstances, the Board also approved the removal of Mr. Ilyumzhinov's name from the trade register of Canton Vaud, and the removal of his name from all documents with UBS Bank"."

Also the Board decided that the Powers of the FIDE President, as described in Chapter 9 of the FIDE Statutes and is reproduced hereunder, are fully delegated to the FIDE Deputy President:

"Chapter 09 - The President and Deputy President

- 9.1. The President represents FIDE officially and can solely sign for FIDE. All contracts signed by the President shall be subject to prior approval or subsequent ratification by the Presidential Board. Any contract that commits FIDE to an obligation or exposes FIDE to a potential liability of more than €100,000 must be submitted for ratification by the Executive Board or General Assembly.
- 9.2. The President presides over the meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Presidential Board.
- 9.3. The President presents an annual report to the General Assembly.
- 9.4. The President's decisions may be appealed to the General Assembly, Executive Board or Presidential Board.
- 9.5. If the President is unable to act or if he duly authorises, then he can be represented by the Deputy President who shall exercise the powers of the President. The Deputy President can thus represent FIDE officially and can solely sign for FIDE.
- 9.6. In certain cases the FIDE President can also delegate specific tasks to other persons; this includes authorising in writing other FIDE officials to sign contracts on his behalf.''

#### 3. Misleading Statements to the media by Mr. Ilyumzhinov.

Mr Ilyumzhinov apologised for making statements regarding FIDE Presidential Board members and FIDE Executives.

Ms. Marinello suggested that they also include a protocol for handling the media and who

can make statements.

Mr. Borg said that regarding media Mr. Makropoulos sent in October an email to all Board members, National federations and so on that no one should make statements on behalf of FIDE when they had already the hijab story. That means that there is already a policy in FIDE that no one should be making any statements, it is not something new.

Ms. Marinello said that she received several inquiries including Washington Post and she forwarded all to the FIDE Secretariat, she did not answer anything because of that policy.

Mr. Makropoulos asked if there is any objection to that proposal.

It was unanimously agreed by the Board that no statements would be made on behalf of FIDE or purporting to represent FIDE unless such statements are made with prior approval of FIDE Office in Athens.

It was also unanimously agreed that everyone would co-operate productively for the good of FIDE, National chess federations and the worldwide chess community.

### 4. Statement of Mr. Ilyumzhinov regarding revocation of his powers.

Mr. Makropoulos said that the next point in the Agenda has to do with the statement of Mr. Ilyumzhinov regarding revocation of his powers. He said that he understood from his declaration before that he is not insisting on this point and he is respecting the decision of the Board.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov withdrew his statement of 6th April regarding revocation of his powers.

### 5. Resignation of Mr. Ilyumzhinov.

Mr. Makropoulos said that concerning the resignation of Mr. Ilyumzhinov, he did not know if it was bad English or a bad moment for all of them, him included, but the fact is that Mr. Ilyumzhinov was never pushed in the meeting to resign and he offered several times when they had the discussion about sanctions that he could resign and at the end he declared his resignation. He ordered also Ms. Tsedenova to prepare a letter. He did not want to use this, he knew of course that the Secretariat had prepared a letter for Mr. Ilyumzhinov to sign but they never published it. Then Mr. Ilyumzhinov changed his mind about the letter and he can respect this and wanted to underline that nobody can force him to resign. The only way to force him to resign is to go for a vote of no confidence, to Extraordinary General Assembly during the Congress probably but as long Mr. Iyumzhinov says that he is not resigning he respects this. However for the media the situation is a big deal, it is not possible that they play with the media and continue saying that there was an effort for him to resign and Americans or Mr. Makropoulos or Mr. Freeman have organized a coup against him, because everybody heard that Mr. Ilyumzhinov said that he is resigning and not once but three times. About the resignation letter that was prepared by the Secretariat, Mr. Makropoulos said that

he was keeping this as a secret because he did not want to say that they have even this to show that he was really going to resign, but as Mr. Ilyumzhinov mentioned it by himself that is why he is also sharing this information. So for him they should clarify the situation and the Russian federation and the Russian officials should know that they do not have a problem with Mr. Ilyumzhinov or with Russians. They are not fighting the Russian federation or the Russian politicians and actually this is the federation that even under the US sanctions has supported and defended Mr. Ilyumzhinov. He said that if possible he should go and meet with Mr. Peskov to clarify the situation and explain that they want to co-operate, that they want sponsors to support their events or Agon or whoever they should support. It is not possible that because of all the mess that happened to face from the Russian side an action which is against FIDE, against their events, against their sponsors, somehow they should understand this and work together with them. These clarifications were about the resignation and misleading statements that have been mentioned before. For him, when Mr. Ilyumzhinov went back to Russia he should have simply said that yes it was a tough discussion, he was emotionally distracted so he made a statement but he is not resigning and he will inform FIDE officials that he will not file his resignation. In that case there would be no negative fights or statements and the matter would end there. From their side, he said that they tried to keep the minimum, there was only one letter from him on the Internet and no interviews in order to protect the organization. He also asked others not to give interviews and if anyone wanted to give an interview they should have said that they were presenting just their personal opinion while the official statements are on the FIDE website. He wanted the Board to agree to clarify this situation and if it possible to meet with Mr. Peskov and Mr. Filatov for that purpose. There is a personal letter that he sent to Mr. Filatov saying that he can understand his sensitive situation but it was important to do what is best to protect the good relations between FIDE and the Russian federation by not adopting what Mr. Ilyumzhinov is saying to the media. He doesn't know if Mr. Filatov has informed Mr. Ilyumzhinov but Mr. Makropoulos was trying to save the relations with the Russian federation because they need to have good relations with all strong federations, of course Russia where they have events but he can say with United States also. That means that they should not try to provoke these countries especially on political level. So this is what he was asking the Board and if they agreed they were going to work on this direction.

# The Board agreed to work towards the direction of protecting the good relations with the Russian and other strong federations.

Dr. Siegel said that for him it is still not completely clear who represents FIDE and what if people do not follow this agreement.

Mr. Makropoulos said there is a decision which Mr. Ilyumzhinov said he was going to follow, he could not start raising doubts about it.

Mr. Sundar said that things should be kept open if Mr. Ilyumzhinov is able to get rid of the sanctions imposed by the United States.

Mr. Makropoulos said this is the decision and for him today the problem is much worse not because of the sanctions but because "we are trying to take our eyes out with our fingers". The situation is a mess especially with what is going on in the media so somehow they

should control this.

Mr. Gelfer said that he understands the concern of the Treasurer. His view is that Mr. Ilyumzhinov not only because he declared he would follow the Board decision but because he is also aware of the situation, he does not want FIDE to face problems, he will understand and follow the decision. Furthermore he is sure that if Mr. Ilyumzhinov has something that he feels that it is necessary or important for FIDE he will bring it in front of the Board before he makes any step about it. He said that according to his opinion this decision will be followed, there is no guarantee about it but he is positive that this arrangement will be in force.

Ms. Marinello said that it is important that they protect the legacy of the President and he has to do it himself by supporting the decision of the Board and also by moving in the direction that he can continue being in the Board of FIDE, maybe as Honorary President, there are lots of options for him. She said that he should be thinking about what is important for FIDE and chess communities around the world and firstly he should respect the decision of the Board because they are all in that meeting to do what is right for FIDE.

The Board unanimously agreed that Mr. Ilyumzhinov, whilst remaining as FIDE President, no longer could act on behalf of FIDE.