

The proposal to hold 2012 World Youth Chess Championships in Maribor, Slovenia

Dear Sirs,

Chess Federation of Slovenia offers a very interesting proposal to hold and organize the 2012 World Youth Chess Championships in Maribor, Slovenia - European City of Culture 2012 and hosting city of Winter Universiade 2013.

If FIDE Presidential Board grants this very important event to Slovenia, we will make a fantastic tournament, which will open great new possibilities to chess on many new territories.

Our conditions are excellent and they were checked by FIDE President Mr. Kirsan Ilumzhinov during his visit in our city (25th of June 2010) and Mr. Berik Balgabaev as well.

Slovenia is very experienced organizer of big events in chess, with big and nice tradition and many fantastic memories from the best players all over the World. We organized many big tournaments in history of chess: Interzonal Portoroz 1958, Candidates Bled 1959, Chess Olympiad 2002 and many others (Zonal tournaments, European Senior championship, many international tournaments), but never any European or World Youth championship.

Our bid to organize World Youth Championship is connected with two attractive possibilities, which we discussed with Mr. Kirsan Ilumzhinov during his visit in Maribor, 25th & 26th of June this year.

The first possibility is to include chess in big project Maribor - European City of Culture 2012, which opened great possibilities for chess development in new field.



Mr. President discussed many possible connections with mayor of Maribor, Mr. Franc Kangler, Mr. Tomaz Pandur (program director of Teatro Realle in Madrid and program director of project Maribor - European City of Culture 2012), Mr. Boris Kutin, ECU president and Mr. Milan Knežević, president of Chess Federation of Slovenia. If the tournament would be granted to CF of Slovenia, Maribor could guarantee European Cultural Month of Chess (November 2012), with many (minimum 50) chess events, covered with broad and notable media support. Maribor - European City of Culture 2012 will be ready to wait on some additional FIDE ideas about this program and will cooperate in this direction with all of its resources as well.

The second possibility is connected with 26th Winter Universiade 2013 in Maribor:



If the tournament would be granted to CF of Slovenia, Maribor will try for any cost to include chess among sports of Universiade program. If there will be no administrative possibilities for including chess in official program of Winter Universiade, Maribor will organize separate chess program during the Winter Universiade and offer possibility to participate to students all over the world. We strongly believe that our bid opens new, very important prospects for chess. Because all of this we kindly ask officials of FIDE to grant this important competition to our country. The year 2012 is our ideal opportunity and we believe that you will recognize our efforts.

Ljubljana, Maribor, 29.06.2012

President of Chess Federation of Slovenia: Milan Knežević

