

**87th FIDE Congress
Baku, Azerbaijan
General Assembly
11-13 September 2016**

MINUTES

0.1. Obituaries.

We mourn the passing in the preceding year of friends of FIDE among whom we remember:

GM Krunoslav Hulak	CRO
GM Ivan Bukavshin	RUS
GM Viktor Gavrikov	LTU
GM Dragan Paunovic	SRB
GM Arturo Pomar Salamanca	ESP
GM Viktor Korchnoi	SUI
IM Mestrovic, Zvonimir	BIH
IM Basagic, Zlatko	SLO
IM Helder Camara	BRA
WIM Rimma Bilunova	RUS
WGM, IA Elisabeth Polihroniade	ROU FIDE Honorary Member
IA Khaled Alnami	LBA President of the Libyan Chess Federation
IA Alexander Skatchkov	RUS
IA, IO Sevan Muradian	USA
IO Con Power	ENG
Mr. Luis Rentero	ESP FIDE Honorary member

1. Brief of President K. Ilyumzhinov to the Assembly.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov warmly welcomed the delegates. He first of all thanked the Azerbaijan Republic and especially the Organisers led by Mr. Mamedov. He said the highest level of the organisation of the Olympiad and the Congress where we see the contribution of Mr. Mamedov. He said this is one of the best Olympiads in the history of FIDE and every Olympiad is getting better organised. The level in Baku should be followed and it should be kept.

He said he will briefly tell about his work since the previous Congress and thanked the delegates for the trust shown in him during the elections in Tromso, who voted for his programme for 2014-2018 regarding chess development. Since being re-elected, he had made over 100 trips and visited many countries, trying to meet the head of the country, the Ministers of Sports and Education and the leadership of NOCs.

Last year, he, together with FIDE Deputy President Mr. Makropoulos and ex World Champion Mr. Kramnik met with an IOC delegation led by the IOC President, Dr. Bach. He said we discussed the possibility of chess being involved in the Olympic Games. The Ancient Greeks said that sport is a combination of strength and brains, FIDE will bring brains to the Olympic movement.

He said that Chess in Schools is very important and we are developing the Chess in Schools programme to help bring up a new generation which is cultured and educated. Mr. Botvinnik said that chess was not only a sport, but a combination of science, sports and culture. So when chess is included into the curriculum, we educate our children. He believes that the more people there are that play chess, the more leaders and ministers will arise from these persons and that the number of wars will diminish. This is FIDE's noble mission, which started in 1924 with 14 countries, we now have 188. In these countries we see the culture and the education of people is growing if kids play chess. In Kalmykia now all kids play chess and their educational results are improving, as in other countries where kids play chess. We are finding sponsors for such programmes, for example Rosneft, and we are grateful to them for supporting Chess in Schools.

He then briefed the delegates on the situation regarding the US sanctions. He said that he had no idea as to why he was placed on the sanctions list as he was completely innocent of the charges. He has appointed lawyers and was challenging the decision. He had been stopped at the last minute from visiting the USA where he was planning to prove his innocence in person. He said that he had requested to take up US citizenship in order that the case can be considered according to US laws.

Mr. Wilkinson of Jamaica said that their Federation filed a request calling for the President's resignation. He was pleased to be recognised in the passionate and charismatic speech of the President. He said their request allowed Mr. President to speak about all the matters. He asked to have the Agenda amended to include the status of Mr. Ilyumzhinov as FIDE President and it will not be difficult. He said Mr. Ilyumzhinov's words justify the inclusion of this proposal. He said there is nothing personal as he has enjoyed a tremendous relationship with Mr. Makropoulos and Mr. President. He believes the President has to step down and fight his battle and clear his name and then rise again. But it is difficult to fight two masters. It is not to say he is guilty, but to give him space.

Second request is dependent on the first request.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov said Mr. Wilkinson is very respected and very enthusiastic. Two years ago he visited Jamaica and they discussed their joint work and had a wonderful dinner together. He asked to send greetings to all twelve members of the Board and expressed his respect while he mentioned that he is ready to visit Jamaica in December and meet them. He mentioned that Mr. Wilkinson is a great promoter of chess and if he agrees they could visit countries together. This is his personal invitation. Mr. Wilkinson is a lawyer and he knows the procedures. The President has a law firm in the USA which defends his interests and the interests of chess movements and he is inviting Mr. Wilkinson to become a member of this law firm. Mr. Wilkinson said nobody is meeting him as he is in the sanctions list. That is not the case, he is in touch with ex Congressmen, FBI etc until today. He is consulted, people get his advice and he has many friends for example stars as R. Gere, C. Norris. Mr. Wilkinson also wrote that he has not fulfilled his promises in 2014, but he is elected for 2014-2018, his term has not been finished, he proposed to discuss this in 2018, but in these two years, the money is not from FIDE, FIDE receives its share as 20%. He said he attracted 12 million USD for many tournaments. Mr. Wilkinson claims that the US Department of Treasury has frozen his activities and his real estate in the USA. Officially he is saying that there is nothing on the territory of the USA that has been frozen. He used to have a house

which he bought in 1992, in the USA, but he sold it in one year. So there is no property in the USA. In February 2016 he met the lawyers, he invited them to London, Zurich and they could see all his accounts and if they would find any illegal actives, all would be given to the chess development. So far no single cent has been found. Mr. Wilkinson is saying that OFAC included the President for financing and supporting of the Syrian Government and Central Bank. He assured him that no single cent or ruble has been transferred to the Central Bank of Syria. That is why his declaration about financing, is a lie. He told the US representatives that yes he was supporting Syria, he was supporting Syrian kids, and chess players. Dr. Hani from Syria is here and they organised tournaments and he met Mr. Assad who was asking about chess developments. If he told this to OFAC and US Department of Treasury, if this support is illegal, they should prove it.

About SportAccord and his resignation, 90% of those who were present in the meeting do not know about this. He was elected in this as he thought that they will push the Olympic cause, but after the changes the vote of FIDE and other non-Olympic sports was excluded. So he has no time to visit their meetings, and that is why he resigned himself.

The other things are very political things and he does not want to discuss them. He is ready to visit Jamaica on his own expenses, to organise a tournament and meet all people of the federation and answer their questions. He once again expressed his respect to the federation of Jamaica.

Mr. Makropoulos said that Mr. Wilkinson came with a concrete proposal in July, then it was a different one and now he was surprised to see that he was coming with a new one.

Mr. Makropoulos was going to follow the opinion of Constitutional Commission. He said he was not there to block anything which is in accordance with the statutes and that Mr. Wilkinson was welcome to express his opinion and have an open discussion.

Mr. Wilkinson replied that the letter which Mr. Makropoulos referred to, was the letter from the Continental Assembly. He read the letter.

Mr. Freeman said that point 5 of Mr. Wilkinson's proposal mentioned the fact of FIDE bank accounts. The compliance unit of the UBS bank contacted him saying that they noticed that Mr. Ilyumzhinov was on the sanctions list and asked him to explain the situation. They froze the accounts until they knew what was happening. Mr. Freeman gave the necessary explanations and two days later they were happy with his response and unblocked the accounts, so it was only a temporary measure.

Mr. Makropoulos mentioned that Mr. Wilkinson knew about this. He said it was obvious that he was exaggerating and it seemed like a theatrical act. He had a discussion with him and he was trying to find what his motives were: if he was really worrying about FIDE, if he was sorry because he could not raise funds in Jamaica due to the situation or if he was trying to continue with a political Agenda after Tromso. He came to the conclusion that behind his exaggerations he was really worrying about FIDE and he said that he partly shared his worries but it was obvious that even if they are using the same words they have different understanding about what FIDE represents. For him FIDE is not only a legal entity with a number of federations, it is

much more, it is about its people and their relations. FIDE has soul and its members spend serious amount of time dedicating themselves to chess. He believes that everybody deserves respect and solidarity. Mr. Ilyumzhinov announced that he is innocent and he is ready to go to the USA and to the court. He then said that it is very unlikely that the President will go out of this situation soon not because he is not innocent but because there is a very difficult procedure to prove that his innocence. He is the one speaking to the President and he is worried about the situation and it is not FIDE, not Mr. Wilkinson, not the journalists that they are celebrating the fact that the name of the President has appeared in this list and that asked Mr. Ilyumzhinov to temporarily step down in regards to his duties in FIDE. He offered this by himself because he cares about the organization and the result is that he is no more active in the decision making procedure. Also another decision was made, if there are organizers and federations that want to invite Mr. Ilyumzhinov in opening or closing ceremonies and ask him to make speeches, he should go. Even if he is not active he is still the President and organizers should not be insulted. Regarding the money that FIDE is losing because of the President's sanctions, he said that FIDE needs every two years about €12 million to run the events and pay the prize funds for the cycle (men and women). Mr. Ilyumzhinov said he is still the one who is working in the direction to find organizers and sponsors who will provide the necessary amount. He did not see the point of sacrificing for the next two years somebody who is really helping FIDE without being involved in the decision making procedure.

Mr. Makropoulos said he heard opinions which stated that if Mr. Ilyumzhinov is still in the list of sanctions he should not run in the next elections. He said in such case they should all sit down together and find a solution but it is not possible to throw him out because some people have their own Agenda.

Tunisian Delegate, Mr. Heddia said it was his first participation in the Olympiad and the General Assembly. He came to Baku to participate in a celebration that brings all FIDE members together but unfortunately he found a lot of tension. He said that so much time was spent to discuss about a subject that had no place to be discussed there. Mr. Ilyumzhinov will go to court and will deal with the situation legally, everyone is making only assumptions now. He proposed to the General Assembly to focus on the political and financial problems that concern the African federations.

Mr. Tolentino said that everyone in the room was professional. Mr. Makropoulos was lenient that the delegate of Jamaica was allowed to speak. He thought that as it was not in the Agenda there was no reason to include the matter now. If there was a part of "no other matters" in the Agenda then there might have been time to discuss it but there was not. To be included in the Agenda 2/3 votes were needed. They would rule and if it is not part of it they should forget it. He said this is a basic rule from the department of common sense.

Mr. Makropoulos clarified that for this serious matter he was going to allow a discussion in the room. He said he was not going to stop people expressing their ideas about the issue. Regarding all the other proposals about voting, for him as the subject was not in the Agenda, he would follow whatever the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission was going to advise.

Mr. Essis, delegate of Ivory Coast was sorry to see the current FIDE. He said that when the delegates stand up and speak they get called names and people are related to

politics and drama. According to him, they are all one family even if each one has different upbringing and education or culture. The reason they come to the meetings is that they want to be part of a respectable organization and keep it as such. He resented the fact that every time somebody said something that it is not likeable he was being called names. He said that they leave their works and families, they travel and take risks to come to the Congresses, they defend positions based on their inner convictions and all they get from that is insults and arrogance. For him this is a shame and Mr. Wilkinson was right, they are not opponents to FIDE, he was maybe an opponent to individuals or to some interests, behaviours, ideas or principals he rejects but not to FIDE. He said he was standing there as an elected member of FIDE. His first meeting with Mr. Ilyumzhinov took place 2 years ago and he was standing to a political camp that was opposed to him but he had come to love him. He loves him because he is humble and displays humility in every place he goes and as a result of that love he was standing there to say that Mr. Wilkinson was right and they should hear what he was saying. It would be difficult for Mr. Ilyumzhinov to discharge his functions fully while also battling this war. He respects Mr. Wilkinson's proposal, for him it was a sign of maturity and humanity that it changed, at the end he did not ask for removal of the President he proposed to discuss the matter and he got insulted. Mr. Wilkinson is not an actor, he is a council in his country, he chose his profession, who was to decide that he should change professions. He said he is not asking for the resignation of the President, he advised that the President goes deeper into his conscience and think about this issue and consult wisely. He would stand by any decisions he makes but he believed the issue needed to be raised by the delegate of Jamaica.

Mr. Vega said that a lot of rumours were running and the discussion brought by Mr. Wilkinson was a necessary one. He believes that their main obligation is with FIDE and they have to protect FIDE from any harm. Nobody could tell him that he is part of the opposition as he supports Mr. Ilyumzhinov since 1996. He considers that everyone is together and does not like that someone that has a different opinion than his, should be insulted, this was not a good example to be given to the delegates. He believes what Mr. Wilkinson said is very clear and strong because he is an excellent lawyer, he heard the answer of Mr. Ilyumzhinov and he agrees with what Mr. Makropoulos stated, that if Mr. Ilyumzhinov is under sanction he can not run for the Presidency in 2018, however he concluded that this discussion was very positive and he did not mind if a lot of time is spent discussing about it.

Mr. Abundo said that he remembered 1995 when a motion of no confidence was taken against Mr. Campomanes and they used a court case that has already been dismissed by the Philippines courts. Now Mr. Ilyumzhinov is only accused and it is quickly forgotten that since the time he has been elected he has given more than 50 million dollars to FIDE. Mr. Abundo asked to give the President a chance.

Mr. Borg said that his relationship with Mr. Ilyumzhinov started when he was in opposition to him in 2006. Since then, they have worked on numerous projects and have spent a long amount of time sharing their passion for chess. At the end of the day the situation is very unfortunate and he was shocked to find about the sanctions. Mr. Ilyumzhinov very responsibly sat down and reviewed the available options. In the first opportunity, the meeting in Athens was called and he stepped down from his official duties. It was recognized immediately that these sanctions can affect FIDE and protective measures were taken. It is not that the management of FIDE is sitting neatly and the situation has been allowed to get worse. Mr. Ilyumzhinov is addressing the

problem and FIDE stepped away when other people were requesting why is FIDE defending him. The President himself recognized that FIDE should not defend him, this is his personal issue but it does affect FIDE indirectly. On the other everyone respects the President, he has done a tremendous work for FIDE in the last 20 years and he would like to stay as long as possible. He is sure that he understands that if the sanctions continue until 2018 it is a completely different scenario but for the time being speculations and creating problems is pointless. He pointed out that Mr. Wilkinson could have checked some of the facts and could have done a proper research. For SportAccord it is actually IMSA that is involved not FIDE, Mr. Ilyumzhinov is President of IMSA, the mind Sports. He did not even want this position, he was requested by the President of SportAccord at that time to become a member of the Executive Board. He was not so interested at the beginning but he was convinced. In the next year the President of SportAccord clashed with the IOC so the people who have been supported by him were basically been pushed away. It was the people of IOC who were trying to push out the non Olympic sports. The same applies for the accounts, Mr. Freeman has made very clear to UBS what the situation was, so there is no need to speculate too much. He said that this procedure happens all the time, there needs to be due diligence and USA is reacting very strongly in lots of countries but at the end of the day we have a situation where FIDE is an independent sports organisation. For example, what happens if Maltese Government decides to sanction Mr. Ilyumzhinov, do we stop the President as well on that case? The President has done so much and the management of FIDE will sit down and work for its best interest, every single federation has to work. It is not just Mr. Ilyumzhinov who should be working for chess, it is all of them they have responsibility to work with the national federations, the National Olympic committees, the Ministries of Sports, everyone should show the energy that the President has shown. Every Federation has to work. He is a great example and suggested to keep supporting him for the time being and the situation can always be reviewed in the near future. Let's resolve it when the time comes.

Mr. Turpanov, delegate of Kyrgyzstan said that first of all he called everyone for tolerance as we are one family, where all respect each other. The opinions require discussions, and if we speak about chess interests. I support Mr. Ilyumzhinov as this is a serious test for himself and from his assurance a future path in chess will depend. Now chess needs unification by chess idea and interests of chess and not political motives and we have to be united. I request tolerance and respect to all of us. Mr. Wilkinson represents his Chess Federation and we have to respect his opinion even if he did not manage to express his opinion in proper way.

Mr. Abdillahi, delegate of Djibouti said that it is their first participation in a Congress as members of FIDE. As the delegate of Tunisia said, he was also sad to see the contradictions and tension and reminded to the General Assembly that FIDE is one family and they should be motivated by their love of chess. He also suggested that all delegates sign a petition asking from the US government a quick resolution of the President's case.

Mr. Ngarambe, delegate of Rwanda said that as long as the members and the delegates of FIDE are not concerned with this question and as one is considered to be innocent until proved guilty, he suggested that Mr. Ilyumzhinov should be supported and FIDE should be promoting chess instead of focusing what the US government is doing with this case He believes that FIDE should be moving forward and wait for the decisions of

US government otherwise the efforts are diverted into an issue that can not be resolved in the General Assembly. He agreed that if the President remains on the sanction the direction should be changed.

Mr. Wijesuriya, delegate of Sri Lanka said that in 2014 there was a big political issue. He believes that some parties are doing politics and are trying to find an opportunity to remove Mr. Ilyumzhinov. This is wrong as he was elected for 4 years. He did what he had to do by giving his authorities to the Vice President so FIDE is moving on. Now he is the President until 2018 so there is nothing to be said.

Mr. Lemsioui, delegate of Morocco proposed to focus on proposals of programs for the development of chess and avoid personal attacks.

Mr. Chirinos, delegate of Venezuela said that the respected President of Jamaica Chess Federation expressed accusations for the FIDE President regarding his relations with Syria. He defended the position of the President and rejected the proposal of Mr. Wilkinson. He said he considers that there are no facts to accuse Kirsan because what he had done in Syria, is related only to chess. In other way, a lot of American high officials have met in the past with Saddam Hussein and Bachar Assad. Kirsan was sending chess sets to Syria and the others were sending bombs there. He said Venezuela strongly supports Kirsan and considers that we should follow our motto – we are one family – and if one of us is attacked, all of us are attacked and we have to defend a member of our chess family. He said that Venezuela is strongly in favour of Kirsan.

Mr. Makropoulos asked Mr. Rivello how he proposed to proceed.

Mr. Rivello said that as Constitutional Commission they are partially satisfied and believe they achieved an interesting result. He said Mr. Wilkinson submitted a motional removal of the President in August, then they were requested to give an advice because this motion was not inserted in the Agenda. Their answer can be found in the Constitutional Commission report. He explained that the answer was clear according to article 12 of the Statutes where specific proceedings are presented from the removal from offices and chapter 4 which is what, how and when it is possible to add something in the Agenda and in which case it is possible to ask during the General Assembly to add something in the Agenda. After that they thought Mr. Wilkinson understood and they discussed with him and after they discussed also with the Presidential Board Mr. Rivello believes that everyone is on the same line. He said Mr. Wilkinson started his opening speech saying he did not want to vote for a motion, he just wanted to discuss the point. The point was an important so couples of hours have been spent discussing it and he thought that everyone is satisfied with that. There was nothing else to do because he believed the motion was discussed and clarified. It is possible to add additional points in the Agenda during the General Assembly but only in an emergency situation where evidence must be established. For example, if the point was to discuss this it could be included but on the contrary if it was to pass a motion in favour of the President or asking something against the President, both motions could not be inserted because FIDE Statutes preview something different.

The General Assembly rejected the request of Mr. Wilkinson to amend the GA Agenda by including a proposal for the FIDE President to resign.

1.1. Report of the Deputy President.

Mr. Makropoulos presented his report.

Mr. Makropoulos said that his main concentration has been in ensuring continuity in FIDE activities following the President's decision. He was also concentrating on making sure that the FIDE Calendar of tournaments is filled and adhered to with all events organised. He is making sure that the financial situation is stabilized and has been investigating new sources of income for FIDE.

Mr. Makropoulos advised that he had made trips to Qatar trip for World Rapid and Blitz, Peru to attend Americas Continental Meeting, Andorra for the Chess in Schools Agreement, Ukraine for the Women's World Championship and Baku for Olympiad preparations.

He said that he had held meetings in Athens with Commissions, particularly with Ethics and Constitutional Commissions to discuss anti-cheating and for the Online Schools Project and Live Ratings Project and with Agon.

He said that he was closely involved in the preparation of the regulations and contracts regarding the Women's World Championship Match in Lviv, the Candidates' Tournament in Moscow, the Women's Grand Prix in Tehran, Batumi and Chengdu, World Chess Championship match between Carlsen and Karjakin in New York and the World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Qatar.

Mr. Makropoulos said that the truth is FIDE is not bankrupt and is not going to be bankrupt. The Treasurer will speak about this in details in his Report.

Mr. Makropoulos said that Fide is still politically stable.

The General Assembly accepted the report of Deputy President.

2. Financial report.

[Annex 2A](#) is Treasurer's report and proposed Budget for 2017.

Treasurer, Dr. Siegel presented his report.

Mr. Pein from England asked Dr. Siegel about the item in financial report 2.1.2 Moscow office in Annex 8 page 2, staff costs, he asked how many people are there, who FIDE is paying specifically.

Dr. Siegel replied there are three people.

Mr. Pein also asked about the following page – Chess in Schools Commission project - 80,000 Euros – if FIDE thinks it is doing good job as the budget for CIS is only 80,000. He believed it is inadequate.

Dr. Siegel thanked Mr. Pein and agreed that the Chess in Schools Commission is very important but who can say which Commission is not important when there are 500.000 Euros to distribute among all different Commissions.

Mr. Pein said that this is actually an answer to his question, and also there is no personal criticism but criticism in an organisation which does not generate income. He said FIDE is not functioning properly as a world governing body.

Mr. Makropoulos agreed that the budget is very low but it must be known that FIDE spends more than 1 mln Euros for CIS projects worldwide. He underlined that Mr. Ilyumzhinov found this amount just for this project.

Mr. Danailov asked Dr. Siegel if FIDE paid the financial expenses of ECU in CAS. And what was the reason to pay 60,000 Euros to the services of Mr. Mastrokoukos.

Dr. Siegel said no, FIDE did not pay any legal costs for the ECU case in CAS. As for the second question, the amount was 30,000 Euros. Mr. Mastrokoukos used to work for FIDE and when he was employed, FIDE had to pay double. Now only half of the amount is being paid and FIDE is using his services.

Mr. Makropoulos said that Mr. Danailov was trying to connect him with Mr. Mastrokoukos. He said that everybody knows that Mr. Mastrokoukos used to be an employee. He was actually the first employee in the FIDE Secretariat in Athens, and when the amount reached 60,000 Euros in social benefits etc, an agreement was reached with his company in Estonia, for the same services he provides for FIDE, but for the amount of 30,000 Euros.

Mr. Gelfer said first of all to Mr. Danailov, that Mr. Mastrokoukos is one of the best-working people in the cycle. All employees of the FIDE Secretariat are friends of Mr. Makropoulos. About CIS he fully agreed with Mr. Pein that is very important and it deserves much more money that it receives. He said that this amount of 80,000 Euros produces more money in each respective federation.

He asked Dr. Siegel to have Mind Games and Sport Accord included in the budget. Comparing expenses and income, FIDE is in minus. He wondered if it is a good decision to proceed with this project which does not produce any income. Last point to make a better picture of the WCOC, he said in the 2015 budget, the budget of the Commission appears as zero. But this picture is wrong, the activities of the Commission are not seen. He proposes that this should be seen in the budget, so people can be aware.

Mr. Makropoulos said for 2017 the changes will be made. For two years he has not been in any Appeals Committees, he does not receive any salary, he is Chairman in two Commissions without receiving any stipend, neither is Mr. Gelfer, only the cover of tickets so he could not understand the misery of those who just came to oppose politically.

Mr. Khodarkovsky of the USA said the spreadsheet shows clear deficit. He asked what is the task force to actually minimise the deficit or to go to surplus. He said that the remarks of Mr. Makropoulos suggested that he was now in a position to approve the budget. The question is who approves and signs.

Mr. Makropoulos did not say he approved the budget. He said that the General Assembly and FIDE approves the budget.

Mr. Khodarkovsky asked who is responsible for signing.

Mr. Freeman said there are three signatories: Dr. Siegel, Ms. Marinello and himself - and two out of three have to sign. He answered to Mr. Gelfer that IMSA Mind Games used to create big amounts of money. FIDE has to show in the accounts the ARISF projects. Mr. Freeman said to Mr. Danailov that according to CAS he owes money to FIDE.

Mr. Danailov said that the amount is voluntary.

Dr. Siegel mentioned the decision of CAS from May 26th which said that the amount that Mr. Danailov owes is payable within 30 days and since June this amount is not voluntary but it is due.

Mr. Danailov replied it was not true.

Mr. Makropoulos said Bulgaria is bankrupt and how are they supposed to pay this money.

The General Assembly approved the report of the Treasurer.

2.1. Proposal of the Treasurer to amend Financial Regulations.

The FIDE Treasurer proposed to delete Section:

9.3 The annual tournament registration fees payable by a federation shall be a maximum of 25,000 Euro. Any late report service charges shall be in addition to the maximum.

and renumber Section 9.4 as 9.3 and Section 9.5 as Section 9.4.

Dr. Siegel said now the finances for 2016 and 2017 look more promising and he modified 25,000 to 30,000 as a maximum amount, but it is also possible to take off limitations.

Mr. Sundar said he limits his conscience and it can be increased by 10,000 Euros.

Dr. Siegel has to look for more money, and referred to the comment of Mr. Pein that more has to be spent for CIS. So this is one way to go.

Mr. Sundar said it is not ok to punish five federations, instead they should be given direction to promote chess.

Dr. Siegel replied that this is the reason he withdrew his original proposal.

Mr. Makropoulos said that for example if the service FIDE is spending for England is 20.000 Euros and for India 100,000 Euros and India is paying only 25,000 Euros then England is the one which is being penalized. By increasing 25,000 to 30,000 Euros still England is penalized so it is obvious that India is a huge federation with a lot of activities and the cost of the federation activities is much more comparing to other

federations, this is the problem.

Mr. Freeman said that as he started as Treasurer, it was 3,000 Euros. There had been several changes and in Istanbul it was raised to 25,000 Euros. The thing is the amount is paid by the Organisers, not the federations. And the AICF keeps this. A lot of federations increase the amount they charge.

The General Assembly approved by majority the proposal of the Treasurer to amend Financial regulations.

2.2. Report of the Auditors.

[Annex 1](#) is audited accounts.

[Annex 2](#) is commented accounts.

[Annex 3](#) is fees paid to PB members in 2015.

The General Assembly approved the report of the External Auditors Ernst & Young for the financial year 2015.

2.3. Permanent Fund report.

[Annex 4](#) is report of the Permanent Fund Administrator Mr. L. Brunner.

Mr. Freeman said it is a historic Fund, and it is a very small amount. There are discussions with UBS in Lausanne to take it into account. FIDE has never touched this since 1930s.

The General Assembly noted.

2.4. Verification Commission report.

[Annex 5](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 82](#) is Minutes from the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Boxall presented the report.

Mr. Pein asked about membership fees. They did not change much in long years. He asked about President's advisors.

Mr. Boxall gave the names of the President's advisors and said that there was no budget for them.

Mr. Makropoulos made it clear that Mr. Iclicki has not worked as Presidential advisor in 2015 and in any case he was taking no money. For 2017 there is a provision in the budget, but a decision needs to be taken.

Mr. Freeman said that FIDE has not raised annual fees for many years.

The General Assembly approved the report of Verification Commission.

2.5. Temporary Exclusions.

The Treasurer may request temporary exclusions of certain federations, should they not pay their arrears.

Dr. Siegel mentioned that federations are overdue with fees with an amount of more than 110,000 Euros which is a burden for FIDE. Some do not pay for years, it is a difficult situation. He will withdraw this proposal for the moment, however it might be that this topic will arise again in the next General Assembly.

The General Assembly noted.

2.6. Discharge of the Treasurer.

The General Assembly was requested to discharge the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2015.

Mr. Makropoulos said the Treasurer made a huge effort to bring FIDE back to track.

The General Assembly discharged the Treasurer from his obligations for the financial year 2015.

2.7. Re-appointment of External Auditors.

The General Assembly was requested to re-appoint Ernst & Young, Switzerland as FIDE External Auditors for the year 2016.

Dr. Siegel proposed to re-appoint them as external auditors.

The General Assembly approved to re-appoint Ernst & Young, Switzerland as FIDE External Auditors for the year 2016.

2.8. Election to the Verification Commission.

In order to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of one of its members, the General Assembly should elect a new member of the Verification Commission.

Mr. Freeman said the only candidacy was Mr. Sitale of Botswana.

The General Assembly approved the election of Mr. Sitale as member of Verification Commission.

3. Affiliations and Exclusions.

3.1. Affiliations.

3.1.1. Confirmation of the full membership arising from the Tromso General Assembly.

In 2014, in Tromso, due to the lack of quorum, the following federations could not be confirmed as full members, although their applications and Statutes were Annexed to the General Assembly Agenda:

- **Burkina Faso**
- **Oman**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Tanzania**
- **Timor Leste**

The Assembly was invited to confirm the full membership.

The General Assembly confirmed the full membership of the above Federations.

3.1.2. South Sudan Chess Federation.

[Annex 6](#) is an application and Statutes of the South Sudan Chess Federation.

The Presidential Board at its meeting in Moscow, March 2016, has recommended the application for the ratification by the General Assembly in Baku.

The General Assembly approved full membership of South Sudan Chess Federation.

3.1.3. Eritrea Chess Federation.

[Annex 7](#) is the application and the Constitution.

The Executive Board at its meeting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015, has recommended the application for the ratification by the General Assembly in Baku.

The General Assembly approved full membership of Eritrea Chess Federation.

3.1.4. Kosovo Chess Federation.

[Annex 8](#) is the application and the Statutes.

[Annex 9](#) is a letter from Chess Federation of Serbia in respect of the application.

The Executive Board at its meeting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015, has recommended the application for the ratification by the General Assembly in Baku. It was recommended with an asterisk after the word Kosovo.

Mr. Rivello said Kosovo is recognized as a state by many states, but not by all. He referred to the UN resolution. The current situation is that there was a unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo. Kosovo said the agreement was approved by the European Union with a bit different wording. UN, Council of Europe and EC use the asterisk. Sports Organisations however do not use the asterisk. It is important that Kosovo participates in FIDE tournaments and meetings. But as it was said not all states recognize it, and Serbians asked to review this matter again.

Constitutional Commission recommended the full membership and in official documents, in ratings list and in all tournaments to follow IOC and use the name without the asterisk. IOC should be respected on this and their procedure should be followed. In one year the situation can be reviewed again.

Kosovo delegate Mr. Avdu said that they had informed the Chairman of Constitutional Commission last year about the IOC statement. He read the last paragraph of the statement. He said 108 countries of the UN recognized Kosovo. In Rio in 2016 no asterisk was used for Kosovo or its abbreviation, or national flag. In the report of the Constitutional Commission it is written in point 1.5. The FIDE Secretariat said that FIDE follows the practice of majority of International Organisations so the majority has to be followed, compared with two names of Council of Europe and EC.

Mr. Urosevic from Serbia said the Kosovo delegate started with sports and then turned it into politics. For Serbia it is acceptable that Kosovo plays with an asterisk. He thinks no change should be made and political process did not change much. He said the solution is a good compromise for everyone. There are still countries which do not recognize Kosovo. There is a working solution, for Olympiads as well. Here first there was no asterisk. And Serbia did not send any official letters and did not raise this issue with any involvement of the politicians.

Mr. Freeman said the formal legal documents should not use asterisk. But at the FIDE website and in official tournaments the asterisk is used. When they play Olympiad and European tournaments the asterisk will not be used.

Mr. Pein said Mr. Azri spoke very eloquently and explained everything and he finds it very strange that after this explanation letters are still written to the IOC. All the delegates know the answer that IOC will give. He found both aspects of the proposal rather futile.

Mr. Freeman said the comments of Constitutional Commission have to be sought.

Mr. Pein found the comment of Mr. Rivello incomprehensible.

Mr. Rivello said he does not understand him but he can probably understand UN and EU and Council of Europe where he used to work and he mentioned real international organisations. He said there is a big problem. Many countries even now do not accept and Russia for example, does not want to be in the same groups as Kosovo. IOC is just an NGO, and he is not happy that Mr. Pein did not understand anything he said. Mr. Rivello said he was not sure if Mr. Pein studied international law, but he himself did and worked as a Professor of the international law. This is a NGO and they can decide whatever and this is not a problem. But all big international organisations are trying to avoid conflicts. Our advice is how to avoid the complications and conflicts. Once more this year UN is changing its system in a worse way for Kosovo and it is better to avoid this confusion. If a problem is about the wording of the asterisk, this can be easily changed. The proposed wording is the Council of Europe wording and the EU. It is true there is an international agreement between Kosovo and Serbia, which use the wording which was mentioned before on a bilateral basis. This is not used everywhere, because there are other cases, such as BIH and the situation is very complicated. We are a simple NGO but we have to pay attention that sometimes we organize events and tournaments in the countries which do not agree with that. Yes, as Kosovo said, the

IOC as an NGO made a choice, other international organisations make their own choices.

Mr. Pein said it is clear now.

Mr. Freeman said on our website we will have it as per the Constitutional Commission's recommendation, and if they change their minds in the future, then we will take the new evidence.

The General Assembly approved the full membership of Kosovo Chess Federation and the use of an asterisk with its name for the chess competitions, as in recommendation of the Constitutional Commission.

3.1.5. Liberia Chess Federation.

[Annex 10](#) is the application and the Constitution.

The Executive Board at its meeting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015, has recommended the application for the ratification by the General Assembly in Baku.

The General Assembly approved full membership.

3.1.6. Nauru Chess Federation.

[Annex 11](#) is the application and the Constitution.

The Executive Board at its meeting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015, has recommended the application for the ratification by the General Assembly in Baku.

The General Assembly approved full membership of Nauru Chess Federation.

3.1.7. Cabo-Verde Chess Federation.

[Annex 12](#) is an application and Statutes of the Cabo-Verde Chess Federation.

The General Assembly approved full membership of Cabo-Verde Chess Federation.

3.2. Affiliated Organisations.

3.2.1. AIDEF (Francophone Federations).

[Annex 13](#) is a report and proposals of the International Chess Association of French-speakers.

[Annex 91](#) is the report of AIDEF after their meeting in Baku.

Mr. Freeman referred to the recommendation of the EB.

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation of the Executive Board to approve the report and proposals of AIDEF.

The General Assembly appointed Mr. Mazouz as a FIDE liaison with AIDEF.

3.2.2. ASEAN.

[Annex 14](#) is a clarification regarding ASEAN Chess Confederation issue.

[Annex 15](#) is a petition to reinstate titles, norms and ratings for ASEAN players.

Mr. Freeman referred to the recommendation of the Executive Board.

Mr. Freeman said that FIDE requested the ASEAN Chess Federation to comply with the decision of Ethics Commission.

Mr. Lwin of Myanmar said on the issue of ASEAN, that he understands that there is a position where you may punish but you may not kill your children. ASEAN was founded many years ago and children in ASEAN region have a lot of opportunities to develop and play chess. He said that the events are good for young players especially and to take this into full consideration and show kindness.

The Malaysian delegates said this is a letter representing all the Federations which is not to be seen as part of the ASEAN Confederation, it is signed by each Federation separately, to reinstate the titles and tournaments in the region of ASEAN. Most countries rely on these tournaments. He supported Mr. Lwin. He said the contents of the letter is we want FIDE and delegates to see the matter as two separate things. This is a plea. We have two heads, members of FIDE and members of ASEAN. Also we rely on such tournaments on norms and ratings. The minutes of the meeting of Executive Board, the reason of the suspension and the reason for EB recommendation is on the reason that Mr. Leong as ASEAN President on the Ethics Commission, but he is not a current President, therefore the reasons are not valid. It is not an issue anymore, by rights, and the titles and ratings should be reinstated.

Mr. Abundo said at the last ASEAN meeting they created new titles, ASEAN GM, ASEAN Master, and they have awarded them to many players already.

Mr. Freeman said that ASEAN did not reply for five or six months. They only had to do what they were asked to do, but they ignored FIDE and let Mr. Leong work for many months. It is not FIDE which is causing problems, but it is people in ASEAN who want to protect Mr. Leong.

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation of Executive Board.

4. Administrative matters.

4.1. FIDE Offices.

4.1.1. Athens Office.

Mr. Freeman said there is no real change in any of the offices. FIDE continues to get good reports about all the offices.

4.1.2. Elista Office.

4.1.3. Moscow Office.

Mr. Balgabaev advised Moscow office was much involved in the events which were taking place in Russia, including the Candidates and Presidential Board.

4.1.3.1. Ratings Project.

[Annex 92](#) is presentation of Live Ratings Project.

Mr. Guliev made the presentation of the Project.

Mr. Bond recalled the discussion last year in Abu Dhabi and pointed out that it is impossible for an organizer in Canada to submit some information without the knowledge of the federation.

Mr. Guliev said it is possible.

Mr. Bond replied that they do not like it.

Mr. Guliev said it is a misunderstanding; the Federations will have an account and will have full control.

Ms. Johnson of Trinidad & Tobago mentioned that many countries produce their respective programmes. She asked to which extent this programme integrates other programmes. How easy it is to be done.

Mr. Guliev said their programme supports all bases and is compatible with all existing databases.

Dr. Siegel pointed out that quite a lot of Federations get discount, and this was not discussed with the Treasurer.

Mr. Guliev said it is just a proposal.

Mr. Makropoulos said that if something like this will be on, then discussions will be different.

Mr. Sundar asked why FIDE does not do this, why to find another agency. He disagreed with the proposal. He said FIDE Administration is one of the best and such things should be handled by them.

Mr. Hamers said he that he was confused by the status of this proposal. This was discussed in Abu Dhabi and now he understands where it has to be introduced. He said that the letter referred to some countries who are in favour but the countries comments say that they are not fully in favour. He believed that a decision must be made.

Mr. Guliev said that it has to be tested in several European countries, in order to see the efficiency of the programme.

Mr. Makropoulos in reply to Mr. Sundar's comments said that FIDE tried to develop the same project, when he met with these people the first time. But of course they

developed a software and an idea. It is up to FIDE to accept it, if it is good for the federations, or to start the idea from the beginning. It is not an obligation for FIDE to introduce this. If they want to do this in three countries, they are welcome, but this is a serious issue.

A letter was received, where countries are mentioned as supporting them. But it is not possible to deal with an agency when they are trying to tell things which are not true. Some federations said that this is not true so we cannot develop a relation that way. There is a problem in cooperation and communication.

If they are ready to test several federations and they accept, for FIDE it is important as in the EB last decision, that this should be a big federation. Otherwise nothing can be done if a federation does not like it.

Mr. Makropoulos proposed that they continue their job of talking to the federations and trying to persuade them.

Mr. Kastner of Austria said FIDE has to decide, many federations have national ratings.

Mr. Kader of Lebanon said as a small Federation, they entrust Mr. Makropoulos to run FIDE around the world and he would like to know the decision of EB.

Mr. Makropoulos replied that he has no opinion as he has not seen this software in working.

Mr. Vardapetian said they are interested in understanding the programme and project. The big percentage is management of tournaments and there are more and more tournaments. This project looks like a dream and there has to be a realistic approach. He proposed a possibility of one or two federations to check this project, but maybe small ones, and then to go to a big Federation in case of a success.

Mr. Makropoulos said this does not help to make a decision.

This project is still at the beginning. Mr. Makropoulos proposed to postpone this discussion for the next Congress.

The General Assembly approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos to continue testing the Live Ratings Project and postpone the discussion for the next Congress.

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After the roll-call Mr. Makropoulos said that in line with looking for better conditions to pass the decisions in a more democratic way FIDE made an agreement with Baku Organizers to cover at least part of the expenses of all delegates tickets. The same agreement has been made with the organizers of the next Olympiad because FIDE is trying to have the delegates present in the General Assemblies than to use proxies and is trying to make sure that delegates have the hospitality and tickets to attend the meeting, without exceptions. He then expressed his view that it was not correct that delegates who are supposed to be at the General Assembly to work, go in the afternoon

to watch the Olympiad Games, their primary responsibility was to attend the General Assembly and asked everybody to perform their duties.

Mr. Makropoulos proposed that delegates who are not present at the General Assembly should not be paid their travel allowance.

The General Assembly approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos that those delegates who are not present at the General Assembly would not be entitled to receive a travel allowance.

4.2. Agon Limited.

Mr. Makropoulos informed the General Assembly that as appeared in the EB minutes, he has sent a letter where he was asking Agon to establish a corporate structure in one of the following jurisdictions: European Union, United Kingdom, United States or Canada. Because of issues of transparency FIDE would have preferred if they have established this corporate structure in one of these areas. His letter has been approved.

Mr. Merenzon said in the next few months they will register Agon in United Kingdom and all financial and ownership details about the company will be public.

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation of the Executive Board for FIDE to send a letter to Agon regarding jurisdiction of the company and sign the same agreement with the new entity.

[Annex 94](#) is a presentation from Agon.

Mr. Merenzon presented his report. He started with the changes in the Grand Prix format. From now 24 players can take part in the Grand Prix Series instead of 12 and it will last 11 days instead of 16. He said they are setting up a sponsorship model where FIDE and local federations have sponsors. They are also paying for the prize fund so it will be much cheaper to organize an event. At the same time they have the idea to sell sponsorships not only for the events but for the players. The cycle is planned to be exactly 2 years which makes things easier for the sponsors.

Regarding the upcoming World Championship Match in New York, he presented the venue. He also said that VIP area will become a main revenue stream as they will sell access to it. The area will have good catering, special guests like celebrities and commentators which will make it a great experience. They are partners with an agency which is called CAA (Creative Artists Agency). It is the most famous sports agency in the world selling hospitality packages for formula 1, top football clubs etc and now they will offer hospitality packages for chess and they will test it as a revenue opportunity. They are also changing the spectators' area. The players will be playing in a sound proof glass box so the experience of enjoying chess as a spectator will be completely different, spectators will be free to use their phones, talk and discuss the moves. They tried this in Moscow during the Candidates Tournaments, it worked fine and they are now improving on this method.

They are working with FIDE to make sure that Anti-Cheating rules are followed and at the same time the visitors are being taken care of. Another thing they are doing is that every day there is going to be first move ceremony in the Match, they are bringing

celebrities, members of charities and other important people, so they are making it a media event in every first move. He also introduced new technology decisions for the Match. They have developed a new broadcasting system and they are also working for protecting the moves legally. In Moscow they banned all other sites from broadcasting moves. Their point was that according to laws which apply in Russia, USA and other countries, if it costs money to produce an event those who spend the money owe the live broadcast. They worked with a top US law firm to produce a legal opinion on this and also spoke to US Southern Court which confirmed that they are right. What they will be doing now is something different, there is currently a new reality in chess, the game has over 1 billion downloads, chess is in almost all smartphones and the number of people playing chess has increased dramatically.

For the first time in any sports the World Championship is going to be broadcasted in 360 degrees virtual reality. That means that everyone around the world can download the application and be in the room with the players. They can be closer to the action than ever before. The cameras will be placed between the players so the match could be seen through the player's eyes. They can also wear 3D glasses. The cardboard with the glasses will just cost a dollar. They are producing a lot of them to give them to schools and also inside the venue. They will also have multiple cameras inside the playing room to choose from. Regarding the dashboard, he said that they have been criticized for not offering the best online viewers experience so they worked with FIDE and other chess organizers and he believes they developed the best possible dashboard for chess, there is analytics, chats, multifunctional boards and other great features. They are also introducing paper view like many other sports have done. There will still be free version as well, anyone can go into the official website and follow the moves but if somebody would like to get premium features like the 360 degrees video, they are charging for it. The model is call freemium. For him this is the best approach to make chess sustainable in the 21st century.

They are building a studio and it is going to be fun to watch chess which means it will not be targeted only to chess players. It is also the first World Chess Championship for the iphone generation. In general the price for the premium features (right to ask online questions during press conferences, analytics, 360 degrees video etc) will be 15 dollars for the whole tournament, for 45 dollars they are selling subscription to the next cycle which includes the next Championship Match, all the Grand Prix and the Candidates Matches, for 99 dollars they will sell all of that plus premium gifts like signed posters, pins and other souvenirs. He said that Mr. Carlsen is a huge supporter of this concept. He thinks chess will never go back to free and that this approach creates good reasons for the federations to develop their membership. So building communities and offering to their members subscriptions for events will be a way to bring revenue to the federations and further to the whole sport.

He explained that generally chess has a huge potential and the market size is very big, there are 300.000 paying subscribers in top 5 chess sites, 4.4 million who follow chess events and the overall market is even bigger, 35 million who regularly play chess online on top 5 sites. According to US studies, more people play chess than tennis and golf combined so the marketing opportunity is amazing. They would like to get partnerships with federations so they will send them an email with the option of signing up. They will offer affiliate programs. They will use selected partners: federations, major medias and chess websites so they will be able to follow the games on their media if they want to but if they prefer premium subscription the federation or

the chess site will get commission.

Mr. Bond, delegate of Canada said there was noise pollution during the Candidates in Moscow and he thought it is really important, as they are trying to engage so many people, to ensure the soundproofing of the room.

Mr. Merenzon replied that they are building players area in New York as a basic sound proof studio with ventilation which is exactly how it is done in music studios so it is definitely going to be soundproof. He agreed that there were sound proofing problems in Moscow and thanked Mr. Bond for helping them there.

Mr. Pein said that this was a very impressive presentation. He had two questions, first was about exclusive access to the moves. He asked if Mr. Merenzon got a judgment which is enforceable outside a Russian court against any chess site broadcasting the moves, the second question was in regards to the Grand Prix, he would like to know if Mr. Merenzon has any confirmed sponsors and how confident he is of getting sponsors for the event.

Mr. Merenzon replied that they announced during the Candidates Tournament that they will be legally defending their rights. They filed legal action against sites who were taking all the benefits even though they were the ones who were organizing the event and spending over 2 millions for it. He said the judgments are enforceable in every WTO in every country in the world so there was a court date but it takes a while to get a judgement and probably it will take 6 more months. That means the process is ongoing. In Russia they are doing it based on Russian law, in the US they will do it based on the US law. In US the law is much more defined but even in Russia they will definitely have a judgment against 3 websites and will send all the legal work to everyone that is in the Congress so they will be able to use the same legal frame for their own event if they choose to do so.

Regarding the second question, he said that they have confirmed sponsors and that they are using 4 revenues sources for the Grand Prix. Basically they work with federations which help to set up the events so that costs are limited - federations like Spain, Russia and Switzerland are involved. Next they sign contracts with players sponsors, they have signed 5 until now and they hope to have 24 as soon as they announce the cities. Also they hope to sell subscriptions, so that will be additional revenue for the next cycle and for merchandizing and VIP events. Overall they have structured it in such a way that there are many revenue sources and they hope the Grand Prix cycle will be sustainable.

Ms. Johnson of Trinidad & Tobago asked what are the activities that they are doing to engage for the wider public and how they are planning to capitalize on the positive aspects they have for the Match.

Mr. Merenzon replied that there is a huge program for engagement but mainly it is PR. They hired good PR firms in London, USA and Russia. He said when they announce about the Match it will be maybe front page news so they are doing huge PR efforts around it. In addition, they are engaging celebrities and they are preparing highlight daily packages with commentary etc which will be given to T.V stations around the world. He said that in Berlin during the World Rapid & Blitz Championships the coverage of chess on T.V was phenomenal and that is why they signed a long term deal

with NRK, because they saw that chess can be a TV sport. They are also developing a public program in New York, in London and in Moscow. They hope that federations will work with them to inform all of their players and members of the new approach that is introduced by Agon and ask them to take a look and see if they like it.

Mr. Ncube went back to the subject of protection of live transmission rights. He asked if Mr. Merenzon had thought of looking at the legal provisions that maybe FIFA or UEFA use. He said this is very important to avoid re-inventing the wheel. He mentioned that in football for live transmission they use delay transmission and people who want to have access have to pay for it, so protection is there and can actually be reinforced.

Mr. Merenzon replied that they have engaged a lawyer in US who worked specifically for FIFA and other sports and it is basically the same law firm which had the legal case which originally created the framework for protection and they won, so legal protection for the US is very strong. All delegates will get the legal opinion from the US and can use this legal document in their own federations to protect the moves. He said that basically Mr. Ncube is right, they are using some of the same legal arguments of other sports.

Mr. Reuben asked for how long will the rights for the moves last from the time they are made.

Mr. Merenzon said that this is defined by the law and they are not claiming any rights apart from the live broadcast so that applies until the end of the game.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili liked the idea that Mr. Merenzon brings in, he said it looks much more professional but he has some doubts because getting the wild card for a Grand Prix used to cost very much. He remembered when they organized this event in Georgia, they convinced their government to pay over 250.000 Euros, now it is much less which he thinks is good but his question is connected purely to the organization of the event. If for example he convinces his government to pay for an excellent player 100.000 Euros from which 65.000 Euros go to Agon and 35.000 Euros for the sponsorship of the federation he wondered how will he have a guarantee that this player will participate in the tournament. He also asked if the location of the Grand Prix series is known.

Mr. Merenzon said that they have been developing the cycle for a long time and they have worked with WCOC to make the dates work. He said that the cycle will be exactly as they announced it for two reasons: one is that they have found the perfect dates for the Grand Prix and the second is that they are planning long term and now they can sell long term sponsorships and also for example subscriptions so it is not going to be swift. He said that he understands that they have to work very hard to make sure people have trust in it.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that his question is that in case he pays and he doesn't know if the tournament will take place, why he should pay in the first place. He proposed that he could pay some deposit fee and pay the whole amount when the tournament is announced.

Mr. Makropoulos replied that they are here to protect the federations and the rights of

the players, this is the job of FIDE, nothing will be paid if there are no tournaments so there is no need for Mr. Azmaiparashvili to worry. He said that Agon has many bright ideas, in the last five months they are working very hard and also FIDE is working with them for no money, they are helping them a lot and he believes that together they are heading in the right direction. If they can succeed to bring in the market there will be revolution in chess. About the Grand Prix, he was very skeptical with these changes but he did not want to block the proposal, he said he will let them try and see the results so for him this cycle will be a testing period. If problems appear they will go back to the old structure.

Mr. Pahlevanzadeh said that any business can be successful if there are good partners and he thinks Mr. Merenzon has very good partners in FIDE, which are the federations. He mentioned that in his country there is no way that people can pay with cards but they can say something on behalf of Mr. Merenzon and the federation will be encouraged and motivated to do more for the events.

Mr. Merenzon said that they are looking into different countries and paying mechanisms and Mr. Pahlevanzadeh is right that right now they can basically pay by card but he agrees with him and his remarks will be taken into consideration. If his federation can not pay by card because the financial structure in the country is not stable, they will find ways to make sure that they can work with the federations directly.

Mr. Makropoulos thanked Mr. Merenzon.

4.3. Proposed changes to the Statutes.

4.3.1. Proposed change to Chapter 04. General Assembly.

[Annex 16](#) is a proposed jurisdiction clause as drafted by the FIDE lawyers.

Mr. Rivello said these points were discussed at the Constitutional Commission. He said the proposed solution is sufficiently good one. However, the first proposal created some problems for our Commission. He referred the delegates to the Constitutional Commission report. He said they have probably different idea about legitimate techniques. The second proposal was to delete the arbitration clause, which was inserted in 2012 to reduce the number of appeals to CAS. It is very difficult to redraft the new clause of the arbitration clause now, so it is probably should be redrafted for 2018, to reduce the number of cases in front of CAS.

The final problem was the redrafting of the difference between CAS and ordinary courts competences. It is important for FIDE lawyers. The doubt is about defense, from one side – it seems that everything has to go to CAS, on the other side, everything has to go to an ordinary court. We tried to find a possible economic solution. We propose to accept everything and delete two subtitles, one subtitle is Other disputes, and the other subtitles – Disputes to go to CAS. We propose to delete these and add the word “other” after “exclusive jurisdiction”. Some delegates said this does not solve all problems. However, it would be better than the competence of all courts and this is a very easy solution.

The General Assembly accepted the change to Chapter 04. General Assembly.

4.3.2. Proposed change to Chapter 08. The Commissions of FIDE.

[Annex 17](#) is a proposed amendment regarding elected commissions.

Mr. Freeman said the proposal is about having Chapter 8 in line with Chapter 3. Only in regards of elected Commissions.

The General Assembly accepted the change to Chapter 08. The Commissions of FIDE.

4.3.3. Proposed change to Chapter 03. FIDE Officials and organs.

[Annex 18](#) is a proposed amendment to current Article 10 of Chapter 03.

The General Assembly accepted the change to Chapter 03. FIDE Officials and organs.

4.3.4. Proposed change to Administrative Subjects.04. Electoral Regulations.

[Annex 19](#) is a proposed change in the Electoral Regulations.

The General Assembly accepted the change to Administrative Subjects.04. Electoral Regulations

5. Commissions.

5.1. Qualification Commission.

[Annex 20](#) is Summaries of the over-the-board titles.

[Annex 78](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Makropoulos said that for some issues which deal with things for several Commissions' attention, there needs to be a decision in the next weeks and to come to an agreement between various Commissions in order to avoid the creation of chaos. He said there will be efforts of coordination and clarification of all issues at the next Presidential Board.

The General Assembly agreed to authorise the Presidential Board to deal with the issues which refer to the interaction of several Commissions and approve the other Commission Reports after necessary changes.

Mr. Herbert said there is a proposal of minimum rating requirement.

Mr. Makropoulos said this will be coordinated as it also affects Development and Events Commission.

The General Assembly approved the over-the-board titles.

5.2. Arbiters' Commission.

[Annex 21](#) is Agenda and Appendices for the meeting in Baku.

[Annex 22](#) is Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Madrid.

[Annex 23](#) is Summaries of the Arbiters' titles.

[Annex 76](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Arbiters' awards were presented according to the list in Annex 76.

Mr. Nikolopoulos informed about the 3rd FIDE Arbiters' magazine.

2016 Arbiters' Manual is available on the website and can be printed on individual request from a federation.

New SubCommittee for a new system of training of Arbiters has been created.

Mr. Makropoulos said that Mr. Nikolopoulos does a great job and General Assembly gave a round of applause.

The General Assembly accepted the Arbiters titles.

5.3. Trainers' Commission.

[Annex 24](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 25](#) is the Trainers' titles.

[Annex 69](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Trainers presented their awards according to the list.

The General Assembly accepted the Trainers titles.

5.4. Technical Commission.

[Annex 26](#) is Agenda for the meeting in Baku.

[Annex 27](#) is Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Warsaw.

[Annex 28](#) is proposed requirements on treatment of schools tournaments.

[Annex 29](#) is a proposed change of subtitle for Chapter 02 (Chess equipment, tournament venue for FIDE Tournaments, rate of play and tie-break regulations).

[Annex 67](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

5.5. Rules Commission.

[Annex 86](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Makropoulos said that following the work of several Commissions the Anti-Cheating rules are no more guidelines and rules. We are going to have clear rules. We will work together to clarify if there is any problem.

5.6. Constitutional Commission.

[Annex 30](#) is a proposal of Constitutional Commission to introduce several changes in Chapter 0.2 Non-Elected Commissions of the FIDE Handbook.

Mr. Rivello explained the proposal.

He also asked to approve the institution of Anti-Cheating Commission and remove from the website the current guidelines because they are not applicable at the moment.

He suggested to have an official printed version of the Rules and Statutes every two or three years.

Mr. Gelfer thanked Mr. Rivello for his contribution of making the Anti-cheating guidelines and making the Anti-cheating work proper in the legal framework. He said he understands the need to take the guidelines out because now their work will be done under the laws of chess, however there are several issues in the guidelines that are technical therefore he believes the guidelines should stay just as a tool to work with.

Mr. Makropoulos said he and Mr. Rivello have reservations about that, the issue must be discussed and a solution should be found and presented in the next meeting.

[Annex 90](#) is the report of the Commission.

The General Assembly accepted the report of the Constitutional Commission.

5.7. Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission.

[Annex 31](#) is Agenda for the meeting in Baku.

[Annex 32](#) is Dutch System to be presented in Baku.

[Annex 75](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Polish delegate asked the General Assembly to give permission to the Presidential Board to approve this after the evaluation.

5.8. Development Commission.

[Annex 85](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Herbert presented the Minutes. He said that the statistical review started two years ago and it is a very interesting file.

Mr. Herbert said that unfortunately the hall was half empty and asked to try to inform other delegates.

5.9. Chess in Schools Commission.

[Annex 33](#) is Commission's report.

[Annex 34](#) is minutes of the CIS Councillors' meeting.

[Annex 35](#) is Commission's proposals.

[Annex 74](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. O'Connell said there is one point in Annex 35 which he wanted to get clarified, about the Agreement with the Spanish Federation.

Mr. Makropoulos said this will be finalised before 1st January 2017 or even earlier. The decision regarding Captains with trainers' licenses had created a serious problem and should be discussed.

5.10. Women's Chess Commission.

[Annex 65](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mrs. Fierro presented the report. She encouraged the federations to support more women events and more women to become arbiters and trainers in order to increase the number of women in the chess world.

Mr. Makropoulos added that there are many tournaments open for women but they do not have special prizes for them or they have one small prize. This discourages their participation. Therefore, Mr. Makropoulos asked the Commission to speak with the various organizers and encourage them to increase the prizes for women. An exception to this situation is Gibraltar Open where there are excellent women prizes.

5.11. Social Action Commission.

[Annex 84](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mrs. Marinello presented the report.

The General Assembly noted the presentation and the Queen of Katwe trailer.

Mrs. Marinello lauded the job of Mr. Katende in Uganda with the underprivileged children. She said they started to work with people with dementia and begun to receive support. Everybody is welcome to help.

5.12. Social Projects Commission.

[Annex 83](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

5.13. Chess for Disabled Commission.

[Annex 36](#) is Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Tallinn.

[Annex 70](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

5.14. Medical Commission.

[Annex 37](#) is Agenda for the meeting in Baku.

[Annex 79](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

The General Assembly accepted the report of the Medical Commission.

5.15. Ethics Commission.

[Annex 87](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Strydom said the Ethics Commission has a presence / sub-directory on the FIDE website. There is transparency on all decisions taken. The website contains all results of decided cases and will (in the future) also show the status of the pending cases.

He said that the Ethics Commission is proposing the suspension of the Bulgarian Chess Federation. It is an important matter and the Commission would have preferred not to have been forced to seek the suspension. He mentions the precedent of ASEAN titles and norms that were suspended due to its refusal to comply with the decision of the Ethics Commission in another case.

In Bulgaria there were cases against Mr. Georgiev, Mr. Stoinev and Mr. Stoichkov. The last two persons were present in the General Assembly as observers. Mr. Strydom said that Mr. Georgiev, Mr. Stoinev and Mr. Stoichkov criticized the Bulgarian chess federation management and they were banned for 3 and 5 years respectively without any hearing, without charges, they just read in the media or on websites that they were banned. They complained to the FIDE Ethics Commission, the Commission set aside these sanctions and clarified that there will be a proper hearing according to the process. They advised the Bulgarian chess federation on the outcome, they had a right to appeal to the CAS but they did not exercise that right. As a result, Ethics' decision has become final and binding. Mr. Danailov wrote a letter in August saying that the GA in Bulgaria has met and refused to comply with the FIDE Ethics decision because they consider the case as an internal matter in Bulgaria and therefore they do not recognise the competence of FIDE to prescribe what should happen there. Mr. Strydom pointed out that this is intolerable situation because the Ethics Commission cannot take decisions which people ignore, if the parties are unhappy they must appeal, if they do not appeal it means they accept them.

What the Commission proposed is not immediate suspension, but a conditional suspension to give the Bulgarian chess federation chance to comply. It provides that they are given 1 month to comply by fully restoring the rights of these players officially in Bulgaria and by confirming to the FIDE Executive Director Mr. Freeman that this has been done. If they do not do so within 1 month, the suspension will immediately enter into force and it will remain in force until they comply. As soon as they comply their membership status in FIDE will be fully restored. So it is really not the GA that seeks to eject them, it is not politically motivated at all and the option is given to Bulgarian chess federation to comply with the FIDE Statutes and if they do so

there is no problem. This is part of the contract that every member federation concludes with FIDE, when you become a member of FIDE you agree to comply with the Statutes. The Statutes article 2.4 says that every member federation must comply with FIDE Statutes; article 2.5 says if you do not comply you can be suspended from your membership by the General Assembly and also you can be permanently excluded in appropriate cases. This is the proposal, the recommendation by the FIDE Ethics Commission. This is purely to protect the integrity of the decisions of the Ethics Commission, the Commission cannot enforce its own decisions, the Commission thinks it is appropriate to ask for help in the General Assembly.

Mr. Makropoulos clarified that this is different from the ECU case, it is about the punishment of these people by their federation because they have brought up this story.

Dr. Siegel asked who will decide that the suspension has ended.

Mr. Strydom replied that the proposal provides that written confirmation must be given to Mr. Freeman. Then Mr. Freeman may consult with him just to make sure that that they are satisfied that there has been full compliance. The affected parties will also tell them in case their rights have not been restored. The Ethics Commission asked the General Assembly to give authority in advance that the suspension will enter if there is no proof of compliance.

Mr. Pein said that the actions of Mr. Georgiev, Mr. Stoichkov and Mr. Stoinev were very brave and asked for a round of applause.

Mr. Makropoulos said that these people were probably sacrificing their chess career by opposing their federation.

The General Assembly unanimously accepted the recommendation of Ethics Commission in respect of the Bulgarian Federation.

The General Assembly accepted the report of the Ethics Commission.

5.16. Events Commission.

[Annex 38](#) is Agenda for the meeting in Baku.

[Annex 39](#) is Summary of IO titles.

[Annex 71](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku

The General Assembly accepted the IO titles.

5.17. Journalists' Commission.

[Annex 89](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Makropoulos said the award for the Norwegian journalists was out of the Commission budget. The Commission believes that the award should be established. They think that all journalists should have a list of chess journalists and oblige the organisers to provide discounts and free accommodation for them.

The General Assembly accepted the report of the Journalists' Commission.

5.18. Anti-Cheating Committee.

[Annex 80](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

Mr. Makropoulos said he would not like to confuse guidelines with the regulations. There is a need to discuss how to solve this issue.

Mr. Gelfer agreed that they will discuss how to use the guidelines when needed. About the report he said that there is one remark at the end stating that the budget is not sufficient for their work. This is not a complaint for the Treasurer, it is just describing the situation.

The General Assembly noted the change of Anti-Cheating Committee to Anti-Cheating Commission with Mr. Gelfer as a Chairman.

5.19. Online Commission.

[Annex 73](#) is Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

5.20. Commission on World Championship and Olympiads.

1. **FIDE World Cup 2017**
2. **FIDE World Cup 2019**
3. **FIDE World Championship match 2016**
4. **FIDE Candidates Tournament 2016**
5. **FIDE Grand- Prix series 2016-2017**
6. **FIDE Women's Grand Prix series 2015-2016**
7. **FIDE Women's World Championship Match 2017**
8. **FIDE Women's World Championship 2016**
9. **FIDE Women's World Championship 2018**
10. **FIDE World Team Championship 2017**
11. **FIDE World Team Championship 2019**
12. **FIDE World Team Championship 2021**
13. **FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2017**
14. **FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2019**
15. **FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2016**
16. **FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2017**
17. **FIDE Women's World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2016**
18. **World Chess Olympiad 2016**
19. **World Chess Olympiad 2018**
20. **World Chess Olympiad 2020**

[Annex 88](#) is the Minutes of the meeting in Baku.

5.20.1. FIDE World Cup 2017.

The event shall be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, 1-25 September 2017.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili asked for permission to move the event to Batumi and to start on 15th September in case it is not clashing with other events. He said the hotel prices will be cheaper. He said only the final match will be held in Tbilisi and the organisers will cover the expenses for that extra day.

Mr. Makropoulos said that WCOC has no problem with this.

Mr. Makropoulos announced that one nominee from the President is Hou Yifan.

The General Assembly approved to move the FIDE World Cup 2017 from Tbilisi to Batumi.

5.20.2. FIDE World Cup 2019.

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, dates to be provided.

5.20.3. FIDE World Championship Match 2016.

The event shall be held in New York, USA, 11-30 November 2016.

5.20.4. FIDE Candidates' Tournament 2016.

[Annex 40](#) is Chief Arbiter's report.

5.20.5. FIDE Grand-Prix series 2016-2017.

- 10-21 February 2017
- 11-22 May 2017
- 5-16 July 2017
- October 2017

[Annex 41](#) is Regulations for the 2016-2017 FIDE World Chess Grand-Prix series.

Mr. Merenzon informed about the Grand Prix Series in his presentation.

5.20.6. FIDE Women's Grand-Prix series 2015-2016.

Monte Carlo, Monaco	2-16 October 2015
Teheran, Iran	10-24 February 2016
Batumi, Georgia	19 April – 3 May 2016
Chengdu, China	1-15 July 2016

5.20.7. FIDE Women's World Championship 2016.

Mr. Makropoulos advised that Tehran was interested in bidding and recommended that it be awarded to Tehran should the offer be acceptable.

The General Assembly awarded the organization of the Women's World Championship to Tehran, Iran, February 2017, provided the terms of the offer are acceptable.

5.20.8. FIDE Women's World Championship Match 2017.

The event will be moved to the beginning of 2018. Bidding procedure will begin once the winner of the previous Championship is known.

5.20.9. FIDE Women's World Championship 2018.

The event has been awarded to Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

5.20.10. FIDE World Team Championship 2017.

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 15-27 May 2017.

5.20.11. FIDE World Team Championship 2019.

Bidding procedure to be announced in 2017.

5.20.12. FIDE World Team Championship and Women's Team Championship 2021.

Bidding procedure to be announced in 2019.

5.20.13. FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2017.

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 15-27 May 2017.

5.20.14. FIDE Women's World Team Championship 2019.

Bidding procedure to be announced in 2017.

5.20.15. FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2016.

The event shall be held in Doha, Qatar, 25-31 December 2016.

5.20.16. FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2017.

The Presidential Board at its meeting in Moscow, Russia, March 2016, has given a period of six months to Agon Ltd to find an organiser for the event along with the Women's event. This period has now been extended to the end of 2016.

5.20.17. FIDE Women's World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2016.

The event shall be held in Doha, Qatar, 25-31 December 2016.

5.20.18. World Chess Olympiad 2016.

The event is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 1-14 September 2016.

5.20.19. World Chess Olympiad 2018.

The event shall be held in Batumi, Georgia, 23 September – 7 October 2018.

The Prime-Minister of Adjara addressed the audience and thanked the organisers and FIDE and welcomed everyone to Adjara and Batumi. He wished luck to all participants, and praised his country.

Mr. Makropoulos said he is a bit worried about the Olympiad playing hall.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said the Government of Adjara knows this very well, and hopes to find a good solution. On 8th or 10th October there will be Presidential elections in Georgia, and he was asked by the Prime-Minister to move the event one week, 16 September – 1 October.

A remark was made that Yom Kippur will be on the 19th so some players will not be allowed to play that day.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that then they will keep the original dates.

The General Assembly noted the information.

5.20.20. World Chess Olympiad 2020.

The Presidential Board at its meeting in Moscow, Russia, March 2016, has approved the bid of the city of Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, to organise the event in Khanty-Mansiysk, and recommended the General Assembly to ratify its decision.

[Annex 42](#) is a bid from Khanty-Mansiysk.

The Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk, Mrs. Komarova addressed the General Assembly on 13th September:

“Dear Mr. President, dear members of the Presidential Board, delegates! Dear colleagues, our good friends and all those who will have the pleasure to discover Ugra in the future! First of all, let me cordially thank the hosts of our meeting. Azeris have a saying: “from heart to heart – it is the shortest way”. Here at the Olympiad, we all feel this warming hospitality. Thank you very much.

Dear delegates!

The FIDE motto “We are one family” is much wanted in the world. The strength of a chess thought is aimed at a special humanitarian mission – to unite millions of people, all continents, to connect traditions and innovations.

This is what will happen at the Olympiad in Ugra. We suggest that it should be organized with the motto “To unite the Universe”.

For the first time we are intending to hold the Olympiad in a partnership with the United Missile-space corporation, uniting it in a chess game – Earth-Space. To show that all the Universe is open for those who believe in the impossible. In ten days, first time in the history of Ugra, our compatriot S. Ryzhikov will go to space as part of the International Space Station. Sergey believed in his dream. This is what chess teaches us. At the Olympiad in Ugra, we will organize a blitz-tournament of Grandmasters with the team at the ISS.

Secondly, we in Ugra are used to measure distances in our own Siberian way: our aboriginal Nations – Khanty and Mansy – could have travelled hundreds of miles just to bring good news or visit their friends. Now we are inviting all countries of the planet to visit us. And in order to bring the news about the 2020 Olympiad, we are proposing to hold the first Olympic chess relay in partnership with FIDE. Our Ugra

chess initiative, created during an online youth chess tournament among BRICS countries, this June, is that young players from all parts of the planet could learn chess and communicate with the entire chess world via open Internet-tournaments. For this we are intending that the mascot of the forthcoming tournament - a chess horse – could travel via all concerned regions and countries-participants of the Olympiad – through online-tournaments, discussions and master classes of Grandmasters for young chess players. The relay of the Olympiad mascot will become a large-scale humanitarian action, aimed at the popularization of chess in the world.

Thirdly, the chess world has become part of the Ugra daily life. This is a mass movement, and our region is one of the leading places in the world to organize Internet chess tournaments. Annually about 1,5 thousand people from Peru and USA to China and India participate in them. Since 1st September 2016, Ugra has become also part of the chess programme education region.

At the Chess Olympiad 2010 in Khanty-Mansiysk, for the first time we applied the technology of the games comments by an artificial intellect. For the 2020 Olympiad our school children are preparing new things, chess of the future, allowing to move chess pieces on the board by their thought. I assure you that this unifying thought of one million six hundred thousand of our residents will enable us to organize the best Olympiad.

Fourth, our goal is to organize the 2020 Chess Olympiad as the most transparent and available for any person living on our planet.

Chess family is the largest in the world. At the 2020 Olympiad – there will be a séance of simultaneous play on the area of 500, 000 Siberian sq. km.

We will be very happy to see all chess lovers who can travel to our region and eyewitness that our saying “To see Ugra – to fall in love with Russia!” is true.

The travelling salesmen must have done this, having travelled our lands in Ugra for more than 150 years from China and Central Asian regions to the European part of Russia. This is called Great Silk Road, but it can also be called Great Chess Road. In their travels, the salesmen from Khiva, Bukhara, Beijing would take out not only tea but chess boards from their bags and pass the time, playing chess and teaching it to the aborigines of Ugra.

We are looking forward to see travelers from the whole world, to play this ancient game, at our Ugra shores.

We are grateful to the members of the Presidential Board and Kirsan Nikolayevich for the trust in us and we are ready to start the Great Chess Road by organizing the World Teams Chess Championships for Men and Women 2017, World Women’s Knockout championship 2018, World Chess Cup 2019 and Chess Olympiad 2020.

I hope, dear delegates that you will support our bid. We are always ready to welcome you in chess Ugra!”

The General Assembly ratified the decision of the Presidential Board in Moscow, to award the organisation of the 2020 Chess Olympiad to Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation of the Executive Board to include the construction of more rooms in the contract to be signed with the Organisers.

5.20.21. Proposal of the Austrian Chess Federation.

[Annex 43](#) is a proposal of the Austrian Chess Federation to create an Olympiad for

rapid and blitz or a Team World Rapid and Blitz Championship.

Mr. Makropoulos said that an input from Events Commission is needed.

Mr. Borg said this is for World Championships and Olympiad Commission, not Events Commission.

The General Assembly referred the proposal of the Austrian Chess Federation to WCOC.

5.20.22. Proposal of the Russian Chess Federation.

[Annex 44](#) is a proposal of the Russian Chess Federation for a challenge of World Champions, men and women.

The Presidential Board at its meeting in Moscow, March 2016, approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos to send the proposal of Mr. Filatov regarding challenging World Champion for discussion at the WCOC and WCOC and the Russian Chess Federation should prepare a detailed proposal for the Baku GA, for men and women.

There is a recommendation of WCOC to postpone it, but there is a letter of Mr. Filatov who is asking for a vote.

Mr. Makropoulos reminded the General Assembly about the proposal.

The proposal was rejected with only two votes in favour.

The General Assembly rejected the proposal of Mr. Filatov regarding the World Championship.

5.20.23. Proposal of the Chinese Chess Association

Mr. Ye presented their proposal about the modification of the Women's World Championship cycle.

Mr. Makropoulos referred to the EB discussion and recommendation.

Ms. Tian said that Mr. Makropoulos and Mr. Gelfer gave a lot of time to this proposal and the issue of the Women's World Championship and Ms. Hou herself.

The General Assembly ratified the recommendation of the Executive Board to authorize Presidential Board to take a final decision on the proposal by the Chinese Chess Association for the modification of the Women's World Championship Cycle.

5.21. Skills and Management Committee.

[Annex 77](#) is Minutes from the meeting in Baku.

Section D. FIDE Meetings, Tournaments and Matches.

6.1. Presidential Board and FIDE Congresses.

6.1.1. Presidential Board meetings.

6.1.2. 87th FIDE Congress 2016.

The event is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 4-14 September 2016.

6.1.3. 88th FIDE Congress 2017.

No bids have been received.

Mr. Makropoulos said that UAE expressed an interest, but no bid has been received. There was also interest from Serbia.

The General Assembly agreed.

6.1.4. 89th FIDE Congress 2018.

The event shall be held in Batumi, Georgia, 28 September – 7 October 2018.

6.2. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship.

6.2.1. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2016.

The event shall be held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, 7-21 August 2016.

6.2.2. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2017.

The event shall be held in Tarvisio, Italy, 1-16 October 2017.

6.2.3. World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 45](#) is a bid from the Turkish Chess Federation to organize the event in Manavgat-Antalya, Turkey, 15-29 September 2018.

The General Assembly awarded the event to Turkey to organize it in Manavgat-Antalya, Turkey, 15-29 September 2018.

6.3. World Youth and Cadet Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18.

6.3.1. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2016.

The event shall be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 20 September – 4 October 2016.

6.3.2. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2016.

The event shall be held in Batumi, Georgia, 18-31 October 2016.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said that there are 62 countries so far. He believes that the tournament will be successful but not like in the past and that FIDE is losing money after the split.

All participants will stay at 5-star hotels.

6.3.3. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2017.

The event shall be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 16-26 September 2017.

6.3.4. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2017.

The event shall be held in Brasilia, Brazil, 21-31 August 2017.

6.3.5. World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 46](#) is a bid from the Greek Chess Federation to organize the event in Neos Marmaras, Greece, from 24 October to 5 November 2018.

The General Assembly awarded the event to Greece to organize it in Neos Marmaras, Greece, from 24 October to 5 November 2018.

6.3.6. World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 47](#) is a bid from the Spanish Chess Federation to organise the event in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), Spain, from 3 to 16 November 2018.

[Annex 48](#) is a bid from the Turkish Chess Federation to organize the event in Manavgat-Antalya, Turkey, 13-26 October 2018.

[Annex 49](#) is an evaluation table and inspections reports.

Turkey withdrew their bid.

The General Assembly awarded the event to Spain to organise it in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), Spain, from 3 to 16 November 2018

6.4. World Seniors Championship.

6.4.1. World Senior Championship 2016.

The event shall be held in Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic, 18 November-1 December 2016.

6.4.2. World Senior Championship 2017.

The event shall be held in Acqui Terme, Italy, 6-19 November 2017.

6.4.3. World Senior Championship 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 50](#) is a bid from the Slovenian Chess Federation to organise the event in Bled, Slovenia, 17-30 November 2018.

[Annex 51](#) is a bid from the Italian Chess Federation to organise the event in Tarvisio, Italy, 3-13 October 2018.

[Annex 52](#) is a bid from the Romanian Chess Federation to organise the event in Bucharest, Romania, from 19 November to 1 December 2018.

[Annex 53](#) is an evaluation table of the above bids and inspection reports.

Romania withdrew their bid.

Mr. Makropoulos said there is a much better bid from Slovenia. For him, the event should be given to Slovenia as Italy has organised many tournaments already.

Mrs. Fierro said the organisers are different and all delegates can see the table and can evaluate which bid is better.

Mr. Makropoulos replied that when they give their opinion of which bid is better, it is a way to help the delegates to make a clear decision. It is clear which bid is better. For FIDE the federation is important and not who is the actual Organiser. Italy has organised many events. He said that he did not want to stop Italy's bid, but the inspections exist to have an understanding of which bid is better.

The General Assembly awarded the event to Slovenia to organise it in Bled, Slovenia, 17-30 November 2018.

6.4.4. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2016.

The event was held in Dresden, Germany, 26 June – 4 July 2016.

6.4.5. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2017.

The event shall be held in Eretria, Greece, 28 April – 7 May 2017.

6.4.6. World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 54](#) is a bid from the German Chess Federation to organise the event in Radebeul (Dresden), Germany, from 30 June to 8 July 2018.

General Assembly awarded the event to Germany.

6.5. World Amateur Championship.

6.5.1. World Amateur Championship 2016.

The event was held in Halkidiki, Greece, 18-28 April 2016.

6.5.2. World Amateur Championship 2017.

The event will be organised in Spoleto, Italy, 1-9 April 2017.

6.5.3. World Amateur Championship 2018.

The following bids have been received:

[Annex 55](#) is a bid from the Italian Chess Federation to organise the event in Cagliari-Sardegna, Italy, from 21 April to 1 May 2018.

[Annex 56](#) is a bid from the Romanian Chess Federation to organise the event in Iasi, Romania, from 1 to 10 April 2018.

[Annex 57](#) is a bid from the Greek Chess Federation to organise the event in Neos Marmaras, Greece, from 13 to 22 April 2018.

Greece withdrew their bid.

Mr. Makropoulos asked about the evaluation bid.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou said there was no evaluation table and no inspection as all the venues are known. First the bid from Italy had no support of the Federation and now it has received support.

The secret ballot vote took place.

Mr. Klerides announced the results: Italy got 57 and Romania got 50.

The event went to Italy.

The General Assembly approved the award of the event to Italy to organise it in Cagliari-Sardegna, Italy, 21 April-1 May 2018.

6.6. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad.

6.6.1. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2016.

The event was held in Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia, from 21 to 30 July 2016.

6.6.2. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2017.

The event shall be organised in Ahmedabad, India.

6.6.3. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2018.

[Annex 66](#) is a bid from Turkish Chess Federation to organize World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2018.

The General Assembly approved to award the World Youth U-16 Olympiad 2018 to Turkey, to organise the event in Manavgat-Antalya, 24 November-3 December 2018.

6.7. World Schools Individual Championship.

6.7.1. World Schools Individual Championship 2016.

The event shall be organised in Sochi, Russia, 2-12 December 2016.

It was mentioned that the event will be great success and that the President of Russia is expected.

6.7.2. World Schools Individual Championship 2017.

The event shall be held in Iasi, Romania, 21-30 April 2017.

6.7.3. World Schools Individual Championship 2018.

The event shall be held in Durres, Albania, 20-30 April 2018.

6.7.4. World Schools Individual Championship 2019.

The 2019 event will be held in Tunisia.

7. Reports of Continental Presidents.

7.1. Report of Continental President for Europe.

[Annex 58](#) is Continental President's report.

[Annex 59](#) is a letter from ECU President and 14 Exhibits (in electronic form).

[Annex 97](#) is Report of the ECU meeting in Baku.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili said next year they will organise a new tournament which will bring new impulse.

About the Bulgarian Chess Federation case, the ECU General Assembly decided on September 10, with majority of votes, to suspend the membership of the Bulgarian Chess Federation (37 votes in favour to expel and 11 members against this proposal). It is a permanent expel and they will have to reapply again. Players will register individually in the tournaments, and play under ECU or FIDE flag.

He wanted to highlight a few points. It is a quite painful decision for him personally. He is not happy with this, who can be happy when a family member is excluded. Unfortunately, it has to be done, as the Bulgarian Chess Federation stopped all communications, they do not answer any questions regarding the money which went from Bulgaria to LLC Delaware company under the ECU name, with the previous President Mr. Danailov, former ECU President.

He said that Mr. Danailov has been sending him a lot of insulting and threatening emails all this time, starting from Montenegro. He has been his personal friend for a long time.

Mr. Makropoulos said this is a clear case where money has disappeared in one offshore account. Mr. Danailov is trying to say that all this investigation is because of him and his friends who are taking some revenge on him. He personally for two years never published or made any comments in media and social networks. He does not care about him and does not understand what this revenge he is talking about is. What he did was that he lost the elections, but Mr. Makropoulos does not keep black books or lists, for 40 years in the Greek Chess Federation or in FIDE for 30 years. He said that there should be a fight if they believe that something is wrong and of course in that case he is speaking against Mr. Danailov and whatever he might have done, because it is not only that money has disappeared probably illegally from Bulgaria and money has been distributed to people, it is a laundry of money and who knows how many other accusations the prosecutor can charge them with. It is a very serious situation, and it touches all European and FIDE members. Somehow everyone is responsible for this. For him there is a clear decision from Europe and their report should be approved. The whole file should be sent to the FIDE Ethics Commission. He did not believe that any other action can be taken at this moment. This will be the job of the next General Assembly.

He also said that if really what is seen until now it is true, then the punishment should be ten times more severe. Somehow the procedure in Bulgaria is going very slow and nothing is concrete. He thinks the matter is very serious and that letters should be sent from ECU and FIDE to the Prime-minister, Minister of Sports and media in Bulgaria, to inform them about the decision in Baku and ask for answers.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili agreed with Mr. Makropoulos and mentioned that the people in Bulgaria suffer and he is afraid that the Government has been helping Bulgarian Chess Federation, that is why FIDE's help is important. If they answer ECU questions, which are in the Agenda, they can any time become members again.

Mr. Makropoulos said that Mr. Danailov is declaring that he has unlimited sources to go against FIDE, and hopes that if he goes all the time to the court, even if he is losing FIDE will not be able to pay the related legal costs. He said there should be a procedure.

The Assembly should agree, that if Ethics needs extra meetings, then the budget should be provided.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou added that the case in Ethics should be against Bulgarian Federation and anyone involved because in these reports there are individuals involved because he knows that Ethics Commission needs a clear case, to investigate all parts of this.

Mr. Strydom said the proposal of Mr. Tsorbatzoglou is good.

The General Assembly approved the ECU report.

The General Assembly approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos to refer the decision of the ECU to the Ethics Commission and if the Commission needs extra

meetings, the necessary budget will be provided.

7.2. Report of Continental President for Americas.

[Annex 60](#) is Continental President's report.

[Annex 95](#) is the report of the Americas meeting in Baku.

7.2.1. Proposal of Zone change for the Ecuador Chess Federation from 2.3 to 2.4.

[Annex 61](#) is the proposal.

7.3. Report of Asian Continental President.

[Annex 64](#) is Continentals President's report.

7.4. Report of African Continental President.

[Annex 96](#) is Continental President's report of the meeting in Baku.

7.4.1. Kenya Chess Association.

[Annex 62](#) is a letter from Mr. Ncube to Chess Kenya.

7.5 Commonwealth Chess Association.

[Annex 93](#) is the report of the Commonwealth Chess Association.

7.6 Small Nations Chess Association.

[Annex 81](#) is the report of the Small Nations Chess Association meeting in Baku.

7.7 European Small Nations Chess Association.

[Annex 68](#) is the report of the European Small Nations Chess Association meeting in Baku.

8.1. SportAccord 2016.

Mr. Freeman said FIDE did not have a stand. Mr. Borg explained that it changed quite a bit and IOC has taken over it, as everything is changing. They are trying to get all sports under the umbrella, so they do not want individual members to vote and chess is objecting to it. They ran several SportAccord Mind Games in Beijing which were very successful and now they stopped organising them.

Mr. Jarret was there as a FIDE representative.

The General Assembly noted.

8.2. SportAccord 2017.

The conference will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, 2-7 April 2017.

9. Any other business.

9.1. IMSA.

Mr. Freeman reminded which sports are there. Chess has been there for some time. Mr. Ilyumzhinov is IMSA President.

The Chinese Organisers have not paid the players after the last IMSA Mind Games. It was explained to the organizer, who is a high official in SportAccord, and to the Chinese Chess Association that this is a big embarrassment but Mr. Borg is still yet to push for the money to be received.

The General Assembly noted.

9.2. Years dedicated to chess personalities.

A proposal was presented at the General Assembly.

Mr. Bastian said 2018 will be the year of Emanuel Lasker.

9.3. Letter from the Lobortas House.

[Annex 63](#) is a proposal of Mr. Lobortas regarding Caissa and FIDE Grand Prix.

Mr. Makropoulos referred it to the Board to decide.

The General Assembly approved to refer the proposal of Mr. Lobortas to the Presidential Board.

9.4. Legal Matters.

Mr. Freeman said since the last Executive Board FIDE visited the CAS twice, first was the case against Ethics Commission by Mr. Danailov, Ms. Stoisavljevic and Mr. Sakotic stating that the Ethics did not have a right to decide on the ECU matter. FIDE representatives went to Lausanne and CAS produced the result very quickly. It was a case that was won completely and got the deposit from CAS to be paid back to FIDE. Mr. Danailov was asked to pay and he still owes FIDE that money. On top of the CAS costs, legal fees must be paid as well as the cost of the Chairman of the Ethics Commission who went to Lausanne. The second case was of Mr. Leong who appealed against the decision of the Ethics Commission to ban him for two years. He produced some reasons as to why, however he had not once replied to the Ethics Commission. The Commission made their judgement without hearing from Mr. Leong or Mr. Kasparov because they just ignored all communication from Ethics. It was pointed out that the idea is for CAS to be the last resort not the first resort. The CAS said they will make a decision by the end of July, then by the end of August and now they are saying they will give their judgement by the end of September.

9.5. Honorary Members

General Assembly approved the following as FIDE Honorary Members:

- WGM Milunka Lazarevich (SRB)
- IA Philip Haley (CAN)
- IA, IO Ali-Nihat Yazici (TUR)
- IA, IO Stewart Reuben (ENG)
- IA Carol Jarecki (BVI)

9.6. Marketing Committee

[Annex 72](#) is Minutes from the Marketing Working Session.

It was proposed to establish a new membership for Marketing Committee. It consists of the following:

- Chairman: Martin Huba
- Secretary: Kraytem Ezzat
- Councillors: Mohamad Al-Modiakhi, Paul Truong, Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu
- Members: Brian van Zyl, Sonja Johnson, Selcuk Burak Hasiloglu, Tshenolo Maruatona, Jinwoo Song, Robert Zsifkovits, Alberto Pinheiro Mascarenhas.

The General Assembly approved the new membership of Marketing Committee.

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1. Audited accounts.
2. Commented accounts.
- 2A. Treasurer's report and Proposed Budget 2017.
3. Fees paid to PB members in 2015.
4. Report of the Permanent Fund Administrator Mr. L. Brunner.
5. Verification Commission's report.
6. Application of South Sudan Chess Federation.
7. Application of Eritrea Chess Federation.
8. Application of Kosovo Chess Federation.
9. Letter from Chess Federation of Serbia in respect of the application.
10. Application of Liberia Chess Federation.
11. Application of Nauru Chess Federation.
12. Application of Cabo-Verde Chess Federation.
13. Report and proposals of the International Chess Association of French-speakers.
14. Clarification regarding ASEAN Chess Confederation issue.
15. Petition to reinstate titles, norms and ratings for ASEAN players.
16. Proposed jurisdiction clause as drafted by the FIDE lawyers.
17. Proposed amendment regarding elected commissions.
18. Proposed amendment to current Article 10 of Chapter 03.
19. Proposed change in the Electoral Regulations.
20. Summaries of the over-the-board titles.
21. Arbiters' Commission's Agenda and Appendices for the meeting in Baku.
22. Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Madrid.
23. Summaries of the Arbiters' titles.
24. Trainers' Commission's report.
25. Trainers' titles.
26. Technical Commission's Agenda for the meeting in Baku.
27. Minutes of the Councillors' meeting in Warsaw.
28. Proposed requirements on treatment of schools tournaments.
29. Proposed change of subtitle for Chapter 02 (Chess equipment, tournament venue for FIDE Tournaments, rate of play and tie-break regulations).
30. Proposal of Constitutional Commission to introduce several changes in Chapter 0.2 Non-Elected Commissions of the FIDE Handbook.
31. Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission's Agenda for the meeting in Baku.
32. Dutch System to be presented in Baku.
33. Chess in Schools Commission's report.
34. Minutes of the CIS Councillors' meeting.
35. Chess in Schools Commission's proposals.
36. Minutes of the DIS Councillors' meeting in Tallinn.
37. Medical Commission's Agenda for the meeting in Baku.
38. Events Commission's Agenda for the meeting in Baku.
39. Summaries of IO titles.
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41. Regulations for the 2016-2017 FIDE World Chess Grand-Prix series.
42. Bid from Khanty-Mansiysk for World Chess Olympiad 2020.
43. Proposal of the Austrian Chess Federation to create an Olympiad for rapid and blitz or a Team World Rapid and Blitz Championship.
44. Proposal of the Russian Chess Federation for a challenge of World Champions,

- men and women.
45. Bid from the Turkish Chess Federation for World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2018.
 46. Bid from the Greek Chess Federation for World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2018.
 47. Bid from the Spanish Chess Federation for World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2018.
 48. Bid from the Turkish Chess Federation for World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2018.
 49. Evaluation table and inspections reports.
 50. Bid from the Slovenian Chess Federation for World Senior Championship 2018.
 51. Bid from the Italian Chess Federation for World Senior Championship 2018.
 52. Bid from the Romanian Chess Federation for World Senior Championship 2018.
 53. Evaluation table of the above bids and inspection reports.
 54. Bid from the German Chess Federation for World Team Championship 50+, 65+ 2018.
 55. Bid from the Italian Chess Federation for World Amateur Championship 2018.
 56. Bid from the Romanian Chess Federation for World Amateur Championship 2018.
 57. Bid from the Greek Chess Federation for World Amateur Championship 2018.
 58. Report of Continental President for Europe.
 59. Letter from ECU President and 14 Exhibits (in electronic form).
 60. Report of Continental President for Americas.
 61. Proposal of Zone change for the Ecuador Chess Federation from 2.3 to 2.4.
 62. Letter from Mr. Ncube to Chess Kenya.
 63. Proposal of Mr. I. Lobortas regarding Caissa and FIDE Grand Prix.
 64. Asian Continental report (electronic version only).
 65. Minutes of Women's Commission.
 66. Bid from Turkish Chess Federation for World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2018.
 67. Minutes of Technical Commission.
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 80. Minutes of Anti-Cheating Commission.
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- 89.Minutes of Journalists Commission.
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