

90th FIDE Congress
FIDE Executive Board
Abu Dhabi, UAE
29th February 2020

MINUTES

FIDE Executive Board (hereafter EB) held its meeting in Abu Dhabi during the 90th FIDE Congress, on 29th February 2020 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. Administration
 - 1.1 Obituaries
 - 1.2 Roll-call
2. Report of FIDE President
3. Financial matters
4. Report of the Continental Associations
5. Reports of the Commissions
 - 5.1 Arbiters' Commission
 - 5.2 Education Commission
 - 5.3 Commission for the Disabled
 - 5.4 Commission for the Women's Chess
 - 5.5 Constitutional Commission
 - 5.6 Ethics Commission
 - 5.7 Events Commission
 - 5.8 Fair Play Commission
 - 5.9 Global Strategy Commission
 - 5.10 Medical Commission
 - 5.11 Online Commission
 - 5.12 Planning and Development Commission
 - 5.13 Qualification Commission
 - 5.14 Rules Commission
 - 5.15 Social Commission
 - 5.16 Systems of Pairings and Programs
 - 5.17 Technical Commission
 - 5.18 Trainers' Commission
 - 5.19 Data Protection Commission (GDPR)
6. FIDE Meetings and Tournaments
7. FIDE Awards
8. Miscellaneous

1. Administration

1.1. Obituaries

We mourned the passing in the preceding year of friends of FIDE and held a minute's silence in memory of them: Denis Jessop (AUS), former President of the Australian Chess Federation; Phil Viner (AUS), former President and Secretary of the Australian Chess Federation; IA/IO Hansen Lars-Henrik Bech (DEN), former President of the Danish Chess Federation and former Rules Commission member; Hassan Mohsen (EGY), former President of Egyptian Chess Federation; IA/IO Ummer Koya P T (IND), former AICF Secretary and former FIDE Vice-President (1996-2006); WGM Lazarevic Milunka (SRB), FIDE Honorary Member; WIM Haring Ruth I (USA), former Ethics Commission member; FM IA Iskandaryan Aram (ARM); IA Khachatryan Aljosha (ARM); IA Gallob Josef Sen. (AUT); IA Gutdeutsch Otto (AUT); IA Katholnig Grete (AUT); IM Moser Eva (AUT); IA Wagner Gertrude (AUT); IA/IO Sapronov Vitaliy (AZE); FM IA Blatny Frantisek (CZE); IA Korinek Jaroslav (CZE); IM Tichy Vladimir (CZE); IA Abo Nar Mohamed (EGY); FA Ahmed Zaki (EGY); IA El-Sayed Fouad Mostafa (EGY); IA Farid Naguib (EGY); IA Galal Eldine Said (EGY); FA Gihan El Sahhar (EGY); IA Hussein Hussein (EGY); IA Ibrahim Mohsen (EGY); IA Kamal Mohd Kamal Moustafa (EGY); IA Saleh Mashaal M (EGY); IA Shalaby Salah Eldine Mohd (EGY); IA Yehya Ahmed (EGY); IA Zaki Khalil Mohamed Hussein (EGY); IA McShane Rod R (ENG); WIM Mothersill Anne (ENG); IA/IO Welch David (ENG); FM FT Peleshev Leonid (EST); FM IA Chikovani Iuri (GEO); WGM FA Khmiadashvili Tamar (GEO); IA Megrelishvili Suliko (GEO); IA Neupert Konrad (GER); FM IA Dobos Otto (HUN); GM IA Forintos Gyozo V (HUN); IM Haag Ervin (HUN); IM Szilagyi Peter (HUN); IM FST Harandi Khosro (IRI); GM Sulava Nenad (MNC); IA Purevjav Ayushjav (MGL); IA Popovic Dragutin (MNE); FA Vujacic Cedomir (MNE); IA Janse Cor (NED); IA Van Beekum Thomas (NED); IM Pereira Renato (POR); FM FA Doroftei Gheorghe-Nicolae (ROU); FM FA Reicher Emanoil-George (ROU); IM Archangelsky Mikhail (RUS); IA Dubov Eduard (RUS); IA Lobanov Yuri (RUS); IM Looshnikov Nikolai (RUS); IM Skomorokhin Roman (RUS); IA Stewart Kenneth (SCO); IA Petrovic Vojkan (SRB); GM Tosic Miroslav (SRB); GM Trajkovic Predrag (SRB); IM IA Giam Choo Kwee (SGP); IA Seah Richard (SGP); FA Puobis Jozef (SVK); IA Puskailer Viliam (SVK); IA Escribano Lasa Juan Jose (ESP); IA Ben Ghorbal Farouk (TUN); GM Benko Pal (USA); FM IA/IO Schiller Eric (USA); IM Shipman Walter (USA); IM Tate Emory (USA); FA Wharry Stephen (USA); IA Silva Nazzari Hector (URU).

1.2 Roll-call

Mr. Iclicki proceeded with the roll-call. Out of 74 members, 69 were members are present. The quorum was reached.

2. Report of FIDE President

Mr. Dvorkovich summarized his report, which he had presented to the EGA meeting on the previous day. As for the headquarters in Lausanne, he reminded that the office is fully operational. FIDE had already some meetings in Lausanne and has a very good relationship with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

3. Financial Matters

Ms. Chen, FIDE Treasurer said that a new FIDE accounts has been opened in Spain and in Russia and all financial resources of FIDE have been transferred to these accounts. The balance has been cleaned up from some dubious items and the process of collecting the arrears from the National Federations has been improved.

FIDE Financial Statement 2018 was showed, as well as the latest cash balances of the end of 2019. FIDE Budget Proposal for the financial year 2020 was displayed.

Mr. Dvorkovich invited Mr. Mazouz to present the Verification Commission's report. Mr. Mazouz said that the Verification Commission met twice last year and its report was published.

He asked the EB members to approve the recommendations of the Commission. The most important recommendations were more transparency, accountability and cooperation between the bodies within FIDE. Mr. Mazouz confirmed that the Verification Commission met with the External Auditor E&Y and the audit report was completed.

Mr. Dvorkovich explained that the first part of the budget concerns the incomes from the Federations. He asserted that now we have a better understanding about what is going on in the various Federations as compared to the time when the budget for 2019 was realized. We also took into account our decision to exempt from fees seniors and level 5 countries. Overall, the budget has been realized according to our forecast of what the current activities of the Federations during this year will be.

The next section of the budget concerns the incomes from the events. Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the income that FIDE already had from the Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia) and expressed his optimism about the income that FIDE will obtain from the World Championship Match. He then reported about the other tournaments organized by FIDE.

Mr. Dvorkovich reported then about the incomes from the Commissions and from the sponsors and focused on the expenses, highlighting the efforts that FIDE is making not to pay high taxes. Funds were allocated for projects for the future. The main expenses are related to travel and organizational costs. This year these expenses are going to be slightly lower and the main reason for that is that FIDE is going to get direct financial support from the organizers of the Chess Olympiad and FIDE will not spend its own money for that purpose.

Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the Secretariat expenses, which increased. This is due to the payment of salaries, since FIDE decided to hire people to build a marketing team, which will allow us to raise more funding. In conclusion, this could be considered not as expenses, but as an investment for our future incomes.

The next item to be reported about concerns the Commissions' expenses, which are lower than the last year due to the fact that the Commissions' meetings will be held in Khanty-Mansiysk and in Moscow and the most of those expenses will be paid by the organizers of the event.

Mr. Dvorkovich then reported about FIDE development fund, which will be allocated partly for the support of the national Federations and partly for the continental associations.

Mr. Bond asked if any of these sponsors are committed for more than one-year period and Mr. Dvorkovich answered that almost all the sponsors committed for last year are committed for this year as well. He also expressed his optimism about the joining of other new sponsors in the future.

Mr. Makropoulos informed that travel expenses of the Deputy President for 2018 are zero. He expressed his hope that what he had tried to do will be an example for other people, not to use FIDE money for electoral purposes.

Mr. Dvorkovich agreed on the fact that money from the funds of FIDE should not be used for electoral purposes.

Mr. Martins asked to see the funds for the continental competitions and Mr. Dvorkovich explained that those events are supported through the development fund. The events' expenses concern only the tournaments organized by FIDE.

Mr. Martins said it would be better to illustrate the expenses for the support of continental competitions separately and Mr. Dvorkovich assured that they would be established separately in the report. It is also established that more details and information about the expenses for the continental and zonal competitions will be sent in the future to all the Federations and the EB members.

The Treasurer's report for 2018 was unanimously approved.

The Verification Commission report was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer was discharged from her responsibilities for the financial year 2018.

The Budget for the financial year 2020 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dvorkovich repeated that more detailed figures about the development fund will be sent in the next weeks to all the Federations.

4. Reports of the Continental Associations

Mr. Vega reported about the activity of the Peru Chess Federation. It is a strong federation, but for one year there has been no leadership and a very chaotic situation within it. He asked for the support of FIDE in solving this situation.

Mr. Ncube communicated that in Africa there is a very good response to the organized activities and reported about their work to further develop the activity for disabled players.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili observed that FIDE development fund had been very useful for the chess activity in Europe and reported about the chess activity in Europe during the year 2019, focusing on the events planned to be held in 2020 and on the ones which took place in 2019, on the success obtained by the ECU e-magazine and on the production of the ECU arbiter dress code. He also asserted that the budget of the European Chess Union is increasing, thanks also to FIDE development fund.

The reports of the Continental Associations were unanimously approved.

5. Report of the Commissions

Mr. Dvorkovich said some introductory words regarding the work of the Commissions. In his opinion some of them worked really well in the last year, while others need many improvements. It is not the right time to blame anyone and FIDE will work directly with each Commission to improve the situation. Sometimes the problem is related to the burden of work connected to other activities in which the members of a Commission are involved, so that they do not have enough time to devote to the Commission's work. In other cases, we needed to rely more on the permanent staff in FIDE to support the Commission's activity and to produce good materials. He hopes FIDE will learn from the experience of 2019 and improve in 2020.

5.1 Arbiters' Commission

Mr. Laurent illustrated the Commission's report, which was quite long because of the many activities the Commission worked on. He also explained that the Commission has received some requests to correct some issues which were published online and illustrated which items will be consequently changed.

Mr. Dvorkovich said that the activity of the Commission had started a bit slowly but had increased substantially towards the end of the year. He commented on the need of raising a new generation of arbiters, which represents the current challenge for the Commission.

The title application recommendations presented in the Arbiters' Commission report were unanimously approved with the three corrections explained by the Chairman during his speech.

5.2 Education Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the activity of the Commission, including conferences and seminars, and acknowledged that FIDE had learnt from the example of the ECU. Some projects around the world were supported through the development fund, but to do it on a systemic basis requires more efforts. He expressed his hope to achieve better results, also thanks to the collaboration with the ECU Chess in School Commission.

The Chess in Education Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.3 Commission for the Disabled

Mr. Luther thanked for the trust in the Commission, which made significant progresses in the last year. He reported about the Olympic competition for the disabled and the organization of many events and tournaments.

The Commission for the Disabled report was unanimously approved.

5.4 Commission for the Women's Chess

Mr. Dvorkovich announced that the Commission did a great job in promoting the role of women in chess. We had more tournaments and higher prizes for women and a 25% quota for women to be officials at the tournaments or in management positions was established.

The Commission for the Women's Chess report was unanimously approved.

5.5 Constitutional Commission

The Constitutional Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.6 Ethics Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich said that the Ethics Commission was very active in the last year, especially with its increased measures about anti-cheating procedures. Sanctions were introduced against a few players and some cases are still to be considered in the next weeks.

The Ethics Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.7 Events Commission

Mr. Solakoglu reported about the activity of the Commission and focused on three issues. Some changes were made in the evaluation form and a new annex was added to the bidding form in order to help and support the organizers of the events, to show them what they must be more focused on when planning an event.

Moreover, following the instruction of Mr. Dvorkovich, the Commission started to make pre-event inspections. In general FIDE awarded tournaments two years before the event, but in two years something could change in connection with the hotel, the venue of the event and so on.

Now the Commission make inspections to the awarded tournament some months before the event to check everything and to support the organizer.

The Commission also tries to appoint FIDE technical delegates for the tournaments to better support the organizer and check the situation.

The title application recommendations presented in the Events Commission report were unanimously approved.

The EB members are called to approve the venue for the future competitions. Mr. Solakoglu explained that there were two bidders for each of the following events: the World Senior Championships 2021, the World Amateur Championship 2021 and the World Senior Team Championship 2021. However, the bidders made an agreement and it was decided to give one of the tournaments to every country. According to their agreement, they withdrew their bids, so that now Russia is the sole bidder for World Senior Championships 2021, Malta is the sole bidder for the World Amateur Championship 2021 and Italy is the sole bidder for the World Senior Team Championship 2021.

The bid from Russia for the World Senior Championships 2021 was unanimously approved.

The bid from Malta for the World Amateur Championship 2021 was approved.

The bid from Italy for the World Senior Team Championship 2021 was approved.

The bid from Italy for the World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2021 was unanimously approved.

The bid from Egypt for the World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2021 was unanimously approved, being Egypt the sole bidder.

Mr. Solakoglu explained that the Commission received no bid from Africa for the World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2021. The Presidential Board decided to reopen the bidding procedure for every country and two bids were received from Russia and from Italy. The Italian Federation sent an official proposal to FIDE, suggesting to award Russia for one year and Italy for the next year.

Mr. Dvorkovich also informed the EB members that the bids for 2022 will be opened in March and said he would prefer to open the bidding procedure for the World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2022 for every country.

The EB members are called to vote between the Russian and the Italian bids for the World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2021. The results of the voting were the following: 2 votes for Italy and 30 for Russia, 7 abstentions. Therefore, this tournament was awarded to Russia.

Mr. Solakoglu explained that two bids were received for the World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships 2021 from Georgia and Croatia.

The EB members are called to vote between the bids from Croatia and Georgia. The results of the voting were the following: for 15 Croatia and 24 for Georgia. Therefore, these tournaments were awarded to Georgia.

Mr. Dvorkovich and Mr. Solakoglu agreed on the wish that in the future the Croatian Chess Federation will be able to host some other tournaments.

Mr. Solakoglu explained that during the official bidding procedures no bids were received for the World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2021. A bid from Mexico was then received when the prescribed bidding period was already over. It was approved to extend the bidding period for two weeks, so that the Mexican Chess Federation could properly submit its bid.

Mr. Dvorkovich informed that we have already started the preliminary communications regarding some of the future events, the first of which is the Olympic cycle for 2024. We had two informal requests related to this event, from Hungary and from Argentina and Brazil. Argentina and Brazil intend to submit a joined bid for the World Cup and the 2024 Chess Olympiad.

5.8 Fair Play Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the activity of the Commission. Around twenty cases are now under evaluation, and there was also a PB meeting regarding the manipulation of ratings by some Ukrainian players.

The following fair play procedures were approved: stricter anti-cheating measures were proposed by the Fair Play Commission and FIDE is ready to support (by providing equipment and a commission of experts) the federations which intend to introduce such measures during the next most important tournaments

5.9 Global Strategy Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the activity of this Commission. Regarding the World Cup, it was established to increase the number of players who could participate to the tournament, thus increasing the representation of the national federations on this occasion.

The qualification requirements for both Grand Prix and the Candidates Tournament represent another issue to be focused on. Many players complained that the qualification requirements used for the current Grand Prix and Candidates Tournament had a bias on the initial rating. Therefore, it is necessary to change these requirements. This is one of the issues the Global Strategy Commission is discussing about and all the Federations are invited to share their opinions about this matter.

The Global Strategy Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.10 Medical Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich reminded that with the help of the Medical Commission strict anti-doping procedures for the major chess tournaments were established. Moreover, recommendations regarding the coronavirus issue were shared within the FIDE bodies and the Federations.

The Medical Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.11 Online Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich explained that the major activity in this area was building FIDE digital identity, especially in the social media. Now FIDE has much higher activity in all social media.

FIDE's new website is operational, even if it requires improvements. Information about the Chess ID platform will be sent in the next few weeks to all the Federations.

The Online Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.12 Planning and Development Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich briefly reported about the activity of the Commission.

The Planning and Development Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.13 Qualification Commission

Mr. Faulks thanked the Elista Office for the substantial support to the Commission and reported about the issues illustrated in the Commission's report.

Mr. Faulks answered to technical questions coming from Mr. Brahim, Mr. Van Hoolandt, Mr. Khodarkowsky, Mr. Mwaka and Mr. Martins.

The Qualification Commission report was unanimously approved.

The title application recommendations presented by the Qualification Commission were approved.

5.14 Rules Commission

The proposal from Mr. Dvorkovich of taking note of the Rules Commission report and the request to the Commission to improve the recommendations were approved.

5.15 Social Commission

It was acknowledged that the Social Commission report was not submitted and requested to the Commission to submit it soon.

Mr. Dvorkovich specified there were some informal communications from the Commission, in particular some suggestions about how to promote chess for poor kids, chess in prison and chess for autistic children.

5.16 Systems of Pairings and Programs

The Systems of Pairings and Programs report was unanimously approved.

5.17 Technical Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich said there were proposals about technical issues, like FIDE official clocks. We were able to announce the results for two categories out of three. From one we had an issue of compatibility of clocks and boards. Unfortunately, it was not possible to take the final decision, which means we will continue using different clocks and boards. We will continue testing new equipment and hopefully we will be able to use more modern clocks and boards in the future.

The Technical Commission report was unanimously approved.

5.18 Trainers' Commission

Mr. Dvorkovich said that the Commission was very active in the work with the academies. As a result, some academies started reporting on their activity. Other academies were not reporting

about their activity and had to pay some fees and were excluded from the list of FIDE academies. Now the Commission is preparing the new curricula for academies and trainers and Mr. Dvorkovich invited everyone to assist the Commission in this work.

The Trainers' Commission report was unanimously approved.

The Trainers' Commission's recommendations on title applications and new FIDE academies were approved.

5.19 Data Protection Commission (GDPR)

Mr. Dvorkovich announced that some proposals have been received to change the regulations regarding GDPR. He mentioned a few of them, which have been approved. Others still need to be worked on and approved. One of these proposals is related to the data regarding players and arbiters that are published on the FIDE website. It was decided that they will be published unless the person concerned directly requests not to publish their personal data (for instance, their birthday). Mr. Dvorkovich also explained they are trying to find the way to have data available for the organizers, the arbiters and other officers that need them to organize tournaments and take decisions. It was decided to establish access requirements and codes for those officers who need to get these data without publishing them. Other proposals will be taken into consideration as soon as the Council will approve them.

The GDPR report was unanimously approved.

6. FIDE Meetings and Tournaments

Mr. Dvorkovich announced that the first quarter PB met in Abu Dhabi, not in China as it was planned. The minutes and the key decisions of the PB will be published very soon. The location for the next meetings has not been established yet, apart from Russia for the third quarter.

The list of tournaments for the year 2020 was illustrated. However, there are still some events for which FIDE has not official venue and dates. The first one of them is World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2020, which will be held in India.

Mr. Dvorkovich reported about the World Championship Match, which should take place in December in Dubai and which had been already discussed during the EGA on the previous day.

7. Awards

The Chairman of the Committee for the Gligoric Award had asked to postpone the decision about the Fair Play Award for 2019 until the Congress in Khanty-Mansiysk in 2020.

The EB approved the recommendations of three new FIDE Honorary Members: Yuri Averbakh (Russia), Khalifa Mohammed Al-Hitmi (Qatar) and Maia Chiburdanidze (Georgia).

8. Miscellaneous

Mr. Dvorkovich announced there was a proposal from the FIDE Management regarding the creation of the Athletes Commission. The EB members are requested to send their comments about the creation of the Athletes Commission in the following days, so that the Council will be able to take soon the final decision.

Mr. Dvorkovich focused on the Fischer Random Chess Tournaments, which consisted of two phases: online (where everyone was eligible to participate) and in presence (with top players). He said that actually more players were expected to participate to the online phase, which means that there was not enough promotional activity for the event. He expressed his optimism about the possibility to learn from this experience and improve the work related to the organization of this event. It is also necessary to identify the form for the rating system of this competitions, both online and in presence. In this context several suggestions were received. Another issue to deal with is represented by the anti-cheating measures that should be applied to these championships. Mr. Dvorkovich added that the next Fischer Random Chess Tournaments will be held in 2021.

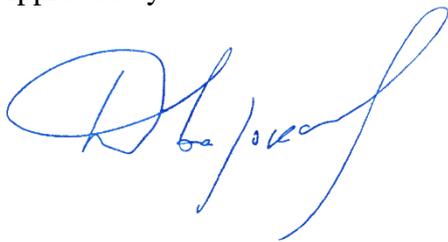
FIDE activities regarding the organization of Fischer Random Chess Tournaments were approved.

Mr. Short said that the rating for the Fischer Random Chess Tournaments was discussed also during the Congress in Batumi. He believed it is an urgent issue, since ratings are a very important part in motivating the players.

Mr. Dvorkovich reminded that the new Charter had been approved. Starting from the 1st March, the PB will become the Council of FIDE and the EB will be transformed into the Zonal Council, but all the current members will keep their position. He thanked all the EB members for their contribution to the meeting, the staff members of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation for their hospitality.

The EB meeting ended at 12.45 a.m.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arkady Dvorkovich', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Arkady Dvorkovich

FIDE President