

79th FIDE Congress
23-25 November 2008
Dresden, Germany

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Lord Mayor of Dresden, H. Orosz, welcomed the delegates of the General Assembly.

The President of FIDE responded by thanking the Mayor, the people of Dresden, the Organizing Committee, the sponsors and the German Chess Federation for the wonderful preparation and organization of the 38th Chess Olympiad and 79th FIDE Congress.

Messrs. Abundo, Bond and Asama were appointed scrutineers.

Roll Call: 105 countries were present thus a quorum was established.

0.1. Obituaries.

Delegates stood in silence to remember those friends of FIDE who had died in the preceding year, amongst whom were:

- GM Robert James Fischer (USA) – World Champion
- Nicola Palladino (ITA) – Honorary Member
- GM Buhuti Gurgendidze (GEO)
- GM Karen Asrian (ARM)
- Philip Hogarty (IRL) –President of the Irish Chess Union
- Heinz Meurer – ICSC President
- Yosef Lapid – ex President of the Israeli Chess Federation
- GM Nino Kirov (BUL)
- IM William G. Addison (USA)

1. Report of the President.

President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov presented his annual report.

He reported on the activities since the last General Assembly. The period after the Turin Congress is remarkable because of the unification of the chess world which took place in October 2006 in Elista. The path to this goal had been very difficult and full of complications. The match itself was a difficult test for both sportsmen and FIDE. The course of the match created a lot of interest from mass media. Chess featured on the front pages of many large newspapers. It is clear that the interest in the match was, to a great extent, caused by “toiletgate”, but it attracted additional interest to chess. There had been very difficult decisions for officials and organizers, but we succeeded to find a way out of the problems. After a considerable period of fracture and absence of unity, FIDE has today one unified champion, without any reference to any version, organization etc. The chess world has one king, and the President has discharged his promise which he gave after being elected to office.

The cycle continued with a successful organization of a World Championship Tournament in Mexico and the recently finished Anand-Kramnik match in Bonn. He pointed out the very high level of organization of these tournaments, and noted that the World Championship Committee, headed by Mr. Makropoulos, has to be praised for this. There are proposals in respect of the future World Championship cycle, and later we will jointly discuss these proposals.

In Turin he had promised to attend tournaments and National Federations. In the past two years he had visited 26 countries and 56 chess tournaments: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Lebanon, Jordan, Vietnam, Germany, Great Britain, UAE, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, USA, Estonia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Moldova, China, Ukraine, Switzerland, India, Korea, and many regions in Russian Federation. He had visited some of these countries several times. Each visit had the object of attending a chess event or tournament, or getting acquainted with the chess situation and problems and needs of National Federations, or lobbying of interest of chess and meetings with heads of States and Governments, business circles and potential sponsors.

In April 2007 in Beijing and in June of this year in Athens, as the head of FIDE delegation he had taken part in the annual meetings of IOC, ARISF and GAISF within the framework of the 5th and 6th SportAccord conferences. In February 2007 and June 2008, a FIDE Delegation met with the IOC delegation led by Dr. Rogge. Federations have been informed through press-releases on the FIDE web site, but he once again underlined the words of Dr. Rogge that we should be more active in our collaboration with National Olympic Committees, personal members of the IOC, the mass media and with our colleagues from other International Federations. The results from meetings and the stands which were visited at SportAccord, once again were another proof of his idea that FIDE's presence in Lausanne is useful and we should actively participate in ARISF and GAISF meetings. Therefore he tasked the Secretariat and Mr. Makropoulos to plan an active presence of FIDE in the next SportAccord meeting which will take place in the USA next year.

In July 2007 FIDE inaugurated the office in Lausanne in the International House of Sports. Here the IOC offices are situated alongside another 20 international sports Federations offices. He had provided more than 100,000 SFR for renovation, furniture and equipment. We have one employee, Mrs. Stephanie Baillargues, who was previously employed in the FIDE Secretariat. The FIDE delegation immediately arranged meetings with the leadership of the marketing and TV department of the IOC, and representatives of other Federations. Our presence in the Olympic capital should be instrumental in the eventual joining with the Olympic family. He was confident that this will also have a positive effect in marketing.

In February 2008 in Slovenia he had participated in the meeting of the Ministers of Sports and NOC Presidents of the EU countries. The FIDE delegation received a personal invitation, and the President presented a report "Place and role of chess in modern world". This was extremely important – to showcase chess in front of such a respected audience. It is no secret that in several large and influential EU countries, e.g. Great Britain and France, chess is not recognized as a sport, and in other countries chess is not in NOC. It is hoped that we were heard and the future development of chess in Europe will benefit from this.

The President expressed his special gratitude to Mr. Boris Kutin, the President of the European Chess Union, for his fruitful work to organize this very important meeting. The President had negotiated with the sport leadership of Slovenia and other EU countries where it was especially emphasized the recognition of chess and chess federations. He thanked Mr. Karpov, who was also present in Ljubljana.

Even though chess is not an Olympic sport yet, it is officially recognized as a sport in almost 100 countries of the world. National chess federations are members of the NOC in 89 countries and associate members in 8 countries. In three countries the applications are being considered.

Following the Summer Olympics and Para-Olympics in Beijing, the 1st World Mind Sports Games were organized in October. FIDE participated in this event in cooperation with our partners in IMSA. This was our first experience in the organization of multi-sports events. We received positive feedback in the Chinese media in respect of good organization of the tournament hall. FIDE is the only one among the five IMSA members who organized two press-conferences during the Games, where we informed of our events and future plans. He thanked the Chinese Chess Association, Messrs. Leong and Jarrett who contributed to the successful organization of Mind Games.

During this period, we have undertaken a lot of efforts to solve the task to find a venue and organizer of the Women's World Championship. Eventually the tournament was organized on a high organizational level in the capital of the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia, the city of Nalchik from 28 August to 18 September. It was a pity, however, that several participants did not take part in this event. We have to think of a procedure where it is possible to make a replacement if a player refuses to participate after signing the contract and after pairings are announced. We might also think of disciplinary penalties in case there are no serious reasons for refusal.

It is a pleasure to congratulate both our new Champions Alexandra Kosteniuk and Anand Viswanathan after winning the titles of World Champion and we wish them all the best. They are Presidential Board members and we are already receiving their proposals. Especially he congratulated Mr. Anand who won the World Championship tournament in Mexico and proved in Bonn that he is a real World Champion.

In the current Chess Olympiad there have been many innovations. We equalized the number of players in the open and women's teams, we reduced the number of rounds to 11 and we changed to a match point system. The pairing system for the first two rounds has also been changed. For the first time in FIDE tournaments there is a ban on the offer of a draw before the 30th move has been made. The Technical Administration Panel has to carefully and comprehensively analyze the changes and present their summary based on this Olympiad. The President invited constructive comments and remarks that would help in coming to the right conclusions. Also, it is necessary to mention the innovation in respect of the obligatory presence of the players at their table before the start of the game. The Chief Arbiter states that after 7 rounds there were only 4 cases of being late. It is a brilliant result, if we bear in mind that previously the arbiters had to wait for an hour for the players. This shows the improving discipline.

A year ago we decided on a continental rotation for the World Youth Championships. In accordance with this decision the tournament for this year was organized in Asia, in Vietnam. It is clear that the financial crisis badly affected the number of participants. The President had visited Vietnam twice during the Championships and was duly informed on the news from Vung Tau. The Vice President of the country and Prime Minister were personally supervising the event. This was one of the most successfully organized events of last year, which was a nice change from previous occasions, where sometimes the interests of children had been the last thing to remember. He praised the active role of General Secretary, Mr. Leong, and efforts of the Vietnamese team who made this tournament memorable for the participants.

Other events of equal importance are the organization of the first tournaments of the FIDE Grand Prix in Baku and Sochi. They were organized on a high level, with good media coverage and with

good feedback from the participants and chess fans. The next leg will be organized in Elista instead of Doha. Having kept in mind the importance of the development of women's chess, we will start the series of FIDE Women's Grand Prix next year. Preliminary list of the cities includes Istanbul, Ulan-Bator, Beijing, Vilnius, Baku and Nizhni Novgorod.

During his visit to Baku he had a very good and constructive discussion with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliiev. The report of this meeting was published on the FIDE website. The FIDE President underlined the fact that in Azerbaijan, under the patronage of the leader of the country, a state programme of chess development for the next five years has been approved. This experience should be a guideline for all of us in our interface with state bodies.

The President spoke about the Topalov-Kamsky match. He realized that FIDE could have resolved much earlier the decision taken in Tallinn. But when he was extending the deadline to Kamsky's manager, A. Chernenko, it was based on the interests of the match participants first of all, chess fans and FIDE. Now it is decided that a 8 games match with a prize fund of 300,000 USD, from which FIDE receives its share of 50,000 USD, will be organized in Sofia, from 16 to 28 February 2009. The winner of the match will meet World Champion Anand Viswanathan in a 12 game match next September. So the system is stable and remains unchanged.

In 2006 at the Presidential Board meeting in Elista, the President had declared his intention to provide funds in order to create a commercial structure in order to promote chess. He informed the meeting that according to his promises given in Turin, he had invited Mr. Bessel Kok to participate in the Global Chess company which was registered in Amsterdam. The President had transferred to the company an amount of 2 mln euros. The negotiations were long and not easy, but the most important thing was that we managed to reach consensus on all points. The contract was signed and approved in November of last year at the Antalya Congress. In two or three months the company will present a wide programme.

Messrs. Leong and Mazouz were tasked with a very important task on restructuring of FIDE Committees and Commissions. The draft proposal was approved in Antalya at the Executive Board. Now we have to discuss the final proposal which will be applied in the future. Chairmen of Commissions will be appointed and he asked Continental Presidents to prepare the candidacies for each FIDE Commission. The reorganised Commissions will operate until the Congress 2010 in Khanty-Mansiysk.

The President reiterated the importance of the Chess in Schools Committee for the mobilization and propaganda of chess.

At the Antalya Congress he had recommended to establish a new position in FIDE – CEO Development. A very experienced businessman, David Kaplan, was appointed to the position. Mr. Kaplan from Israel has a lot of good ideas, but their fulfillment is possible only with the active joint work of each of us. To close the issue of the strategy of the future, he said that we are facing a real challenge – what shape will chess be, what position it will occupy in society, and what will be the interest drawn to chess in various strata's of population in the countries of the globe, in order to make chess commercially attractive.

During his trips and meetings with Heads of States, he had discussed the project of chess centres construction in the capitals of countries. This is a programme to create a global network of chess centres, which is being realized together with an international development company called Chess Lane. The centres will be constructed as multi-profile buildings, including chess museums, hotel, office and commercial facilities, with exhibition halls and conference halls. These can be used to

organize international chess tournaments and other events. We are sure that the construction of such centres will create new possibilities for activities of national chess federations, and ultimately, will create an additional impetus for chess promotion throughout the world.

He was happy to note that in two years since Turin, the number of official FIDE events is growing. We have to decide on the venue of the 2012 Chess Olympiad and we have two wonderful bidders – Budva, Montenegro, and Istanbul, Turkey. For 2014, Norway and other countries are interested.

He touched on the situation in the world and the financial crisis. Alongside the negative aspects, there are also some possibilities for countries who find the right approach.

He thanked members of the Presidential Board, Presidents of National Federations and delegates for support and love of the ancient game of chess.

In two days the Chess Olympiad in Dresden will close, but now to work.

2. Financial Report

2.1. Report of the Auditors.

Annex 1 is the report of the FIDE External Auditors, Messrs Ernst & Young on the financial statements of FIDE for the period 1st January to 31st December 2007.

2.2. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Nigel Freeman presented his report.

Annex 2 is accounts for year ending 31st December 2007.

Annex 3 is explanations on accounts.

Mr. Freeman explained the loss on currency conversion. He congratulated federations on their efforts to reduce arrears but pointed out that in the current year a lot of the CACDEC budget has yet to be allocated.

He dealt with questions from Mr Iclicki on the travel insurance and medical expenses plus the over spend on the Candidates Matches, which had been caused by force majeure.

Annex 73 is the 2009 budget

The Treasurer dealt with questions on Depreciation, Chess Events Commission, CHIPS and CACDEC. With CACDEC he pointed out that the budget was now much larger and that it should be used sensibly.

General Assembly approved the FIDE budget for 2009.

2.2.1. Amendment to Financial Regulation 9.2.

The Treasurer proposes that the annual rating fee shall be 1 euro per player with a maximum each year for each Federation of 1500 euros. There will be no discount in future for rating reports sent by electronic means as all reports now meet this requirement.

General Assembly approved the recommendation of Executive Board to accept the proposal.

2.2.2. Exclusions.

2.2.2.1. Exclusion of Chile and Ivory Coast Chess Federations.

Mr. Freeman said Chile and Ivory Coast were unable to meet their obligations to FIDE and General Assembly should exclude them from membership.

Thanks to Messrs. Makropoulos, Vega and others, there is a new Federation to recognize in Chile. Mr. Freeman proposed that FIDE recognize Fundacion Chilena de Ajedrez as the official chess governing body of Chile which will undertake all responsibilities of the previous Federation.

General Assembly approved the exclusions and the new Federation in Chile.

The Chilean representative thanked everyone and promised to work with FIDE.

2.3. Permanent Fund Report. Annex 4

Mr. Rajscanyi raised some questions but his remarks related to the current year and the report was for 2007.

General Assembly accepted the report.

2.4. Report of Verification Commission. Annex 53 & 67.

Point 7 of the report, regarding PR and Marketing, was discussed and it was recommended by the Executive Board that a budget be approved for first 5 months of 2009. Then if Presidential Board is satisfied in June 2009 the projects shall continue.

Further it was recommended by the Executive Board that the positions of Marketing and PR Director, Commercial Director and CEO Development be added to officials of FIDE, in order to formalise them within the FIDE structure.

General Assembly accepted the Executive Board recommendation.

2.5. Discharge of the Treasurer.

General Assembly approved the 2007 accounts and Treasurer's report and discharged the Treasurer from his obligations for the year 2007.

2.6. Appointment of External Auditor.

It is proposed to appoint Messrs. Ernst and Young, Greece as auditors

Mr. Freeman said Executive Board recommends the exclusion of the word 'Greece'.

Mr. Jarrett said that there are some changes in the sports laws in Switzerland, and we would need auditors in Greece and Switzerland. Ernst & Young were present in both countries.

General Assembly approved the proposal with the amended wording

Section A: Administrative Matters.

3. Affiliations and Exclusions.

3.1. Affiliations.

General Assembly confirmed full membership of the following Federations.

- 3.1.1. Sao Tome and Principe Chess Federation.**
- 3.1.2. Cameroon Chess Federation**
- 3.1.3. Congo Chess Federation**
- 3.1.4. Gabon Chess Federation**
- 3.1.5. Solomon Islands Chess Federation. See Annex 24.**

For Bhutan (Annex 46), General Assembly approved to award them associate membership until documents have been fully examined and then the next Presidential Board meeting to confirm full membership, if everything is in order.

3.2. Proposal of All India Chess Federation for a separate zone. Annex 5

There was a discussion on the wider issues of Zones and their constituents.

General Assembly approved the Executive Board recommendation for a global study of the zone structure.

3.3. GlobalChess. Annex 68.

CEO Geoffrey Borg presented his report.

Concern was raised by Mr Kelleher that the Interface team had not been meeting regularly as set out in the contract.

Mr Makropoulos stressed the importance of these meetings.

President said he had met with Mr. Kaplan two days before and he would prepare a special report for the next Presidential Board meeting.

General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Board Executive Board that Global Chess respects the full contract, has regular meetings with the interface team, presents projects to FIDE, respects the website agreement and ensures that chess business is done through Global Chess.

3.4. Development Department. Annex 69.

Mr. Makropoulos said FIDE has to study Mr. Kaplan's proposal.

General Assembly approved.

3.4.1. Registration of FIDE in the Trade Register of the Canton of Vaud, including amendments of the Statutes, Confirmation of officials and power of signature. Annex 45.

Mr. Jarrett said we need to amend the Statutes in order to proceed with this matter.

General Assembly approved the amendments to the Statutes

3.5. FIDE Offices. Annex 34.

General Secretary Ignatius Leong and Executive Director David Jarrett presented their reports to the General Assembly.

General Assembly approved the reports.

3.5.1. Proposal of Messrs. W. Kelleher and L. Mazouz regarding Agenda and Minutes of the meetings. New Annex 6.

General Assembly approved the proposals subject to flexibility for deadlines for all Commissions and Secretariat in busy times.

3.6. Handbook update.

Executive Director David Jarrett presented his report.

Some urgent changes have already been put forward for this meeting. There are other places where regulations need to be changed such as the lack of quorum for Executive Board and Presidential Board. There needs to be a thorough review but we await Mr. Kaplan's proposals.

General Assembly approved the report.

3.6.1. Membership criteria. Annex 7.

General Assembly approved the proposal. However, it was agreed to accept the Executive Board recommendation that these proposals only apply to applications from potential new members. Existing members are not affected.

3.7. Restructuring of Committees and Commissions. New Annex 8 and Annex 48

General Assembly authorised Presidential Board to decide on final restructuring and procedure for nominations and membership of Commissions.

3.8. Electoral Regulations. Annex 9.

Annex 9 was approved by General Assembly with amendment so that members of the Scrutineers Committee are decided by lot after nomination by Continental Presidents.

Section B: Technical Commission. Annex 57.

4. Commission Chairman Andrzej Filipowicz reported.

The Chairman said that the pairing system used in the Olympiad appeared flawed and difficult for players and captains to understand. There would have to be an analysis before it was used again.

The proposal from the Philippines regarding citizenship was referred to the Presidential Board or other appropriate legal body as it was not considered a Technical Commission matter. Mr Abundo was distributing a questionnaire on the topic and would inform the results in due course.

General Assembly approved the report of Technical Commission Chairman.

4.1 Rules and Tournaments Regulations Committee. Annex 59.

Mr. Gijssen reported.

Many months of work had gone into the preparation of the final draft of the new Laws of Chess and he thanked those that had contributed. The one major point still to be decided was article 6.7, regarding the default time.

Mr. Makropoulos said that the Executive Board had made a recommendation that we should have zero time before default, without exceptions, for all tournaments. However, this is a serious issue and he proposed to authorise the Presidential Board to make a final decision on this after a proper discussion. If we go for zero, we go without exception. The captains at the Olympiad were to be surveyed and their opinions will be given to the Presidential Board.

The President said he felt strongly about the issue, if FIDE is to be a serious and strong organisation and wants to be included into the Olympic Games, we have to show respect and have zero default time. It is impossible in other sports to be late for competitions. It should apply from school to world championship events. He gave examples where the image of FIDE had suffered because of the late arrival of the players at the board.

Mr. Makropoulos said arbiters are in favour. We should respect the players also. Mr. President has his opinion, but we should wait for opinions of the players and then in the Board the President will present his proposal and will seek the Board's approval.

General Assembly approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.

The Chairman then highlighted other significant changes that had been made

Mr. Gijssen said after the decision of the Board, the Laws of Chess will come into force on 1st July 2009.

General Assembly approved the report of the Rules and Tournament Regulations Committee Chairman. The Laws of Chess were approved subject to the decision of the Presidential Board regarding 6.7 and the Annex relating to Chess 960 rules.

4.2 Swiss Pairings Committee. Annex 50.

Committee Chairman Christian Krause reported.

General Assembly approved the report of the Swiss Pairings Committee Chairman.

4.3. Technical Administration Panel. Annex 60.

General Assembly approved the report of TAP Chairman.

Section E: 5. Qualification Commission.

5.1. Qualification Commission. Annexes 62 & 70.

Commission Chairman Mikko Markkula presented his report.

Mr. Markkula informed the meeting of the proposal to adjust Myanmar ratings, the changes in the rating calculations and the decision to publish the rating list bi-monthly and lower the floor from 1800 to 1200.

Time Controls:

A) WITH INCREMENT

(90'/40 + G-30') + 30" ("the shorter")

[90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for remaining moves, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 1]

Or

(100'/40 + 50'/20 + G-15') + 30" ("the longer")

[100 minutes for 40 moves, then 50 minutes for 20 moves, then 15 minutes for remaining moves, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 1]

Or

90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move - added

B) WITHOUT INCREMENT

120'/40 + G-30'

[120 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for remaining moves]

or

120'/40 + 60'/20 + G-30'

[120 minutes for 40 moves, then 60 minutes for 20 moves, then 30 minutes for remaining moves]

Or

120 minutes for 40 moves plus 60 minutes for remaining moves - added

General Assembly approved the Qualification Commission Chairman Report.

5.2. The Executive Board in Antalya approved the 60 day rule and the introduction of fines for late pre-registration.

This needed ratification by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly approved the decision of the Executive Board.

5.3. Titles and Ratings Committee. Annexes 10,11 & 44

Committee Chairman Dirk De Ridder presented his report.

The General Assembly approved the report of the Titles and Ratings Committee Chairman.

5.4. Arbiters' Council. Annexes 12, 13 & 51

Council Chairman Panagiotis Nikolopoulos presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the Arbiters' Council Chairman.

Section F: 6. Chess Events Commission.

6.1. FIDE Calendar Administrator.

General Secretary Leong said he will submit his report to the next Presidential Board.

6.2. Organizers Committee. Annex 14 & 47.

Committee Chairman Stewart Reuben presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the Organisers' Committee Chairman.

6.3. Youth and Junior Events Committee. Annex 15 & 43

The Committee Chairman, Mr Kostiev, presented his report.

There was a discussion regarding the merits of holding the World School Team Chess Championship, as in 2008 there had been only 17 teams in 4 competitions from 9 federations.

General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Executive Board that the World School Team Chess Championship should not be organised until an organiser guarantees that the number of Federations who wish to participate is much greater than present.

Section G: 7. Development Commission

7. No meeting was held of the Development Commission.

7.1. CACDEC. Annex 58.

Committee Chairman Allan Herbert reported.

Mr. Herbert reported on the record breaking participation of CACDEC federations in the Dresden Olympiad. He said that federations should be more pro-active in claiming CACDEC funding.

He focused on the problem of issuance of visas, which affects emerging nations acutely. He recommended FIDE work with Organizers to overcome this problem.

General Assembly approved the CACDEC Chairman Report.

7.2. Committee on Chess in Schools. Annex 54.

Committee Chairman Uvencio Blanco presented his report.

The Chairman mentioned the support needed for federations to improve the teaching of chess in schools. Instructors need to be recruited and trained. He mentioned the social programmes in Africa, Spain and Brazil.

There was a large schedule of events planned for 2009, which builds on the programme from the current year. Many seminars had been organised and tournaments supported.

Prof. Blanco presented plaques to the President of FIDE Kirsan Ilymzhinov, F. Skripchenko of Moldova, T. Redman from USA, H. Laplasa in memoriam from Argentina and N. Palladino in memoriam from Italy.

General Assembly approved the report of the Chess in Schools Committee Chairman.

7.3. Committee on Women's Chess. Annex 41.

Committee Chairperson Halbagt Reimova presented her report.

General Assembly approved the report of the Committee on Women's Chess Chairperson.

7.4. Committee on Chess for the Disabled. Annex 42.

Committee Chairman Gerry Walsh presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the Committee on Chess for the Disabled Chairman.

7.5. Trainers' Committee. Annex 52.

Committee Chairman Yuri Razuvaev presented his report.

The report is referred to the Presidential Board.

Mr. Gelfer asked for some remarks about him to be removed as they were not acceptable.

General Assembly referred the amended report to the next Presidential Board.

Section H: 8. Special Commission.

8.1. Report of the PR and Marketing Director P. Rajscanyi. Annex 40.

Mr. P. Rajscanyi presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the PR and Marketing Director, subject to the budget limitations for 2009.

8.2. Chess Information, Publication and Statistics. Annex 38.

Committee Chairman Gaguik Oganessian presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the CHIPS Chairman.

8.3. Chess Art, Philately and Exhibition Committee.

No report was received

8.4. Computer Chess Committee. Annex 32.

The Committee Chairman, Mr Jovan Petronic, presented his report.

General Assembly approved the report of the Computer Chess Committee Chairman.

Section I: FIDE Medical Commission. Annex 65.

9. Commission Chairperson Dr. Jana Bellin presented her report.

There were changes in the Doping rules, the pool of top players had been increased and there would be out of competition testing.

General Assembly approved the report of the Medical Commission Chairperson.

Section J: Ethics Commission. Annex 49.

10. Acting Commission Chairman Robert Alt reported.

General Assembly approved the report of the Ethics Commission Chairman.

Section K: FIDE Meetings, Tournaments and Matches

11. Presidential Board.

11.1. 1st quarter 2009 Presidential Board.

Hungary expressed an interest and will inform FIDE shortly.

11.2. 2nd quarter 2009 Presidential Board.

If needed this will be held during the Executive Board in Vietnam, May 31st – June 8th

11.3. 3rd quarter 2009 Presidential Board.

Possibly to be held during the World Championship match in September.

11.4. 4th quarter 2009 Presidential Board.

To be held in Antalya, Turkey, in November concurrent with the World Youth Championships.

11.5. 79th FIDE Congress and 38th Chess Olympiad 2008.

Honorary Vice President I. Gelfer reported. There had been a record participation of teams. This was especially pleasing for the Women's event where the number of boards had been increased by one from former Olympiads. As always, FIDE tries to learn from its mistakes. Olympiad and Congress are very well organised by Dresden.

Mr. Makropoulos said that FIDE should make sure that for future Olympiads dinner is not served at a venue that is far from the playing hall and not in the

player's hotel. Service in 4 and 5 star hotels should match the star rating of the hotel.

Mr. Buthali raised the visa issue of African teams. Africa teams met serious challenges. There had been delay in communication from their side, but FIDE should consider prevailing situation and there was some degree of insensitivity. Visa requirements were very strict sometimes, Olympiad is supposed to be all inclusive. He was disappointed as we have a team of inspectors from FIDE who report to Presidential Board and this should have been picked up by them.

Mr. Gelfer said visa problem is something which the General Assembly cannot solve, it should be solved on a higher level.

Mr. Leong said that there are no specific regulations on such matters as catering, but there was a bad precedent set in Belfort and we should do our best and not repeat this, so we should always use assessment from previous events.

Prof. Von Weizsaecker said embassies in respective countries decide unilaterally on the visa issues. We understand that there is a migration problem and the general guidelines have to do with that. Economically attractive countries always have such policies. German Chess Federation and German Foreign Ministry have little impact on the decisions taken by the embassies.

The General Assembly accepted the report together with the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.

11.5. 80th FIDE Congress 2009.

The event shall be held in Vietnam. 31st May – 8 June 2009.

11.6. 81st FIDE Congress 2010 and 39th Chess Olympiad 2010.

The events shall be organised in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 19 September -1 October 2010.

A presentation was made by Mr. Filipenko.

11.7. 82nd FIDE Congress 2011.

FIDE is inviting bids for this event.

11.8 83rd FIDE Congress 2012 and 40th Chess Olympiad 2012. Annex 16

Two bids have been received for the event.

a) Turkish Chess Federation for Istanbul.

b) Montenegro Chess Federation for Budva, 4-17 November 2012.

A roll call was taken. Roll call: 136 countries present. 24 of them are proxies.

Quorum was established.

After presentations by the bidders, whose order was defined by lot, the vote took place.

Out of 136 votes, 135 votes were valid. Istanbul received 95 and Budva 40 votes.

Istanbul, Turkey is awarded with the organisation of the 2012 Chess Olympiad and Congress.

11.9. World Chess Championship match V. Anand vs V. Kramnik.

Deputy President G. Makropoulos reported. He said that the event was organised on a very high level.

Annex 25 is Chief Arbiter's report.

The General Assembly accepted the report.

11.10 World Cup 2009.

Honorary Vice President I. Gelfer reported. The main problem in Khanty-Mansiysk at previous World Cup events was the food but this issue was being addressed. The dates are: arrival 6 November, departure – 2 December 2009. Continental Presidents should give their nominees in advance.

Mr. Makropoulos asked the Continents to organise their qualifying events on time in order to have qualifications ready well in advance of the World Cup especially because of visa requirements..

The General Assembly approved the report.

11.11 World Cup 2011.

Deputy President G. Makropoulos reported.

Estonia had asked to organise this event, and deposited 10,000 euros and FIDE will have negotiations with them. The meeting of FIDE and Estonia should be arranged in the next weeks and Ms. Kass confirmed.

Mr. Makropoulos said the General Assembly has to decide whether we should ask them to provide a guarantee by 31 May 2009, or in case they fail, we will

seek another organiser.

General Assembly approved that Estonia should provide a guarantee by 31 May 2009.

11.12 World Chess Championship Cycle 2009-2011.

Annex 76 and 77 were taken under Grand Prix discussion (Item 11.12.3)

11.12.1. FIDE World Challengers' Match V. Topalov vs G. Kamsky. Annex 55.

Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos reported.

Mr. Makropoulos said an agreement had been reached and the dates of the match are 16 February until 28 February 2009. The prize fund is 250,000 USD. He announced the principals: Mr. Leong is Chief Arbiter, Mr. Freeman is Chairman of the Appeals Committee and Mr. Bond (CAN) is Supervisor.

FIDE would help the Kamsky delegation, by giving them 5,000 USD from the amount of 50,000 USD which FIDE receives from Bulgaria.

We decided to give for Mr Topalov, who cancelled his participation in Linares, USD 15,000 as compensation. We know that Mr Topalov receives an appearance fee of 40,000-50,000 USD at Linares.

Mr. Kelleher thanked FIDE for these negotiations. He was part of the negotiating group, and he thinks a fair agreement was reached.

Mr. Makropoulos said that from the time FIDE started negotiations with the players, the FIDE Secretariat was sending copies to Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Vega and Mr Donaldson. We succeeded to reach a final agreement when Mr Kamsky decided to change his representative, and Mr. Sutovsky managed to help. Mr Kamsky has informed us that Mr. Chernenko is no longer his representative.

The General Assembly approved the report.

11.12.2. Match for World Chess Championship, September 2009. Annex 33

Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos reported

This is the match between winners of Anand-Kramnik and Topalov-Kamsky matches. FIDE should open a bidding procedure, from 1st December 2008 until end of March 2009. Thus the Organisers will have time to work for the preparation and secure sponsorship. FIDE cannot go for an earlier deadline as the match between the Topalov-Kamsky will only finish on 1st March 2009. Possible organisers already know more or

less the participants and they can start preparing possible bids. They will have one month after the Topalov-Kamsky match finishes in order to complete the bids. FIDE cannot extend the bidding deadline until end of May 2009.

Mr. Makropoulos said that normally when we are opening a bidding procedure it is very possible that we will get a bid from one of the player's countries. Both the USCF and Mr Anand talk of a "neutral venue". Our history shows that we cannot easily find a neutral organiser. However, we do accept the proposal of the current World Champion regarding common rest rooms.

General Assembly approved the report

11.12.3. Grand Prix 2008-2009. Annex 26.

Commercial Director Geoffrey Borg reported.

The published programme is:

Baku- 20 April-6 May 2008

Sochi – 20 July-15 August 2008

Doha – 13-29 December, 2008

Montreux- 14-28 April 2009

Elista - 1-17 August 2009

Karlovy Vary – 7-23 December 2009

Mr Makropoulos said we are facing problems with the tournament in December. In fact we have no contracts for the remaining 4 tournaments. We have the word of the President for Elista. Doha has collapsed and informed the President that it cannot organise the Grand Prix. The President took the responsibility to organise the Elista leg earlier, but he cannot organise all the Grand Prix tournaments. He is not supposed to organise all the tournaments. Montreux and Karlovy Vary have been given a deadline of 30 November and 15 December respectively to make a deposit of 50,000 euros or FIDE will look for other organisers.

There have been many discussions on the way forward. There is a need to have a sound system to provide a challenger for the World Championship match in 2010.

Mr Gelfer reported on the changes in the World Championship cycle proposed in **Annex 76**. He said we have to learn from our mistakes. We have an unprofessional system of organisation.

He said the proposed changes are actually an improvement to secure the cycle. We are securing a whole cycle. Two players from Grand Prix, Two players from World Cup, loser of the Anand and Topalov-Kamsky match, the loser of the Challenger match, highest rated player and nomination of the organiser. Format is to be either knockout or tournament. The bidding procedure is not so long. We are convinced that organizers

need time to promote and prepare so 31st January is deadline. Within one month FIDE will give an answer. If there is only one bid, the answer will be quicker.

We are proposing this because we realise that every time a player loses the title, he is out of the cycle. We shall also give a place to the organiser, as is our general practice. We are asking organisers to pay 4 mln euros for the event, so it is natural to offer them a place.

Mr Makropoulos said the President had discussions that day with the President of Armenia who is also head of the National Chess Federation. He expressed his interest in organising this event.

Prof. Von Weizsaecker expressed thanks for the explanation for the substantial changes. He said that if money decides the future, he sees the necessity for compromise, but you give up the mechanism of deciding the structure.

Mr Makropoulos said he would be right, if the proposal would bring something new to chess, but the changes are not revolutionary, they are traditional. We have a final match and we have a tournament or candidate matches, this system always existed. We try to stabilise the cycle. We are flexible, but we are not making something completely new.

Mr Kelleher said this proposal is a radical change from the last couple of years. It is a substantial alteration of our relationship with Global Chess. He wanted to hear Mr. Borg's opinion of the Global Chess perspective as our close partner.

Mr Borg said he had been involved in the discussions and agreed with all changes, so it is clear we are together in this. Potential format, whether it is matches or tournament, this is down to individual organisers. We will see. This is a draft text of our proposal, later it will be much more detailed. Regulations will be worked out. It should replace a single challenger's match with something more attractive.

Mr Azmaiparashvili said he wanted to emphasise that such a format will not have any problem with sponsorship. Only one point – the World Cup, 4 years ago was World Championship, today it produces a challenger, but tomorrow it will produce only two players who will go to the tournament. The value of the World Cup is going down and he was worried for the sponsorship of the World Cup in the future.

Mr Gelfer said we are looking for a combined bid, because maybe a potential sponsor can organise both, and it will be preferable for FIDE. Regarding the comment of Mr Azmaiparashvili, we cannot satisfy everyone and everything. System will change, more tournaments and more possibilities for FIDE to finance itself. We preserve the rights of World Cup winners for the future as well.

Mr. Filipowicz said he was in favour of new system, it is an excellent idea, the best solution in recent years. Selection of players is done very well. He agreed about World

Cup, but it is a preliminary tournament, like Interzonal. A lot of people will be interested to organise.

Mr. Khodarkovsky said that if three more Grand Prix events are in jeopardy, who will be the winner.

Mr Makropoulos said FIDE will organise all six events. We have a potential organiser for each of them but we should not face this problem. If the system collapses, it would be bad whether we have candidates matches or not, as we will not get a candidate for a semi-final match. We will find a way. We are trying to save the Grand Prix.

He said the replacement system for the qualifiers will be announced in the regulations. We are not pretending that we are not worried and ignore the real situation. What we are trying to do is to make the right decisions, to secure stability of the cycle. We are trying to react before we face a situation when it is too late to act. In the whole pyramid, the heart of the system is the World Cup –where all qualifiers go from continents and zones. Without the World Cup, Continental Championships will die, as they will have nowhere to send their qualifiers. The problem is that the most expensive event, the World Cup, is not producing any important player such as a World Champion. It is a big effort.

Mr Kutin agreed with the worries about Continental Championships. We are trying to solve next cycle.

Mr Freeman proposed we should amend the last part of the report in view of the up to date information and this was agreed.

The President said that World Cup or WCC on knockout system are his two babies. In December 1995 in Singapore, FIDE changed the world championship cycle. He said FIDE is organisation not only for two great players, it is an organisation for all chess lovers and millions of chess fans. We changed the system. The prize fund was criticised. The world is changing and FIDE should also change. We decided in the General Assembly on a new format and WCC became World Cup. Since Turin we decided to work with Mr Kok. We created Global Chess and we created Grand Prix. Two days ago FIDE received proposals from UEP, to include this new tournament. This information has important points – 20% of the prize fund goes to FIDE, which is important additional money for our work. Then there is the moral aspect, as losers from matches complain they are out of the cycle when they do not participate in the World Cup. In 2 or 3 years FIDE will be a big sports organisation and at that time we will have other problems to solve, therefore he supported this proposal.

General Assembly approved the amended report (Annex 76).

Annex 77 is a proposal of UAE, for the Women's World Championship, for 2010, 2012, 2014. They are ready to organise a World Club Cup and open a new FIDE office in Abu Dhabi.

They nominated Dr. Sulaiman Al Fahid to the new post of CEO Commercial Affairs.

The President said he had discussed women's chess with Dr Fahid and he agreed that he could organise these events and there will be no problem with visas etc. Next year he will open a new office in Abu Dhabi and he will cover all expenses. No money from FIDE is required.

Mr Makropoulos said that if there is a problem with visas, we should not organise a 2010 Women's World Championship or World Club Cup in the UAE. They should confirm to FIDE that there will be no problems.

Mr Borg said if there is a problem with visas, they will go for Grand Prix.

Mr Gelfer said that FIDE is one organisation where we try to put politics aside. Israelis do not feel that we have conflicts in FIDE. The General Assembly should take note of the President that there will be no visa problems.

The President said he will meet with the UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Al Nahyan in January.

Mr. Buthali said he had a query regarding the FIDE office in Abu Dhabi. He was concerned how far we should go with satellite offices and how they would operate. Should we have an office in Africa, we need to be guided.

The President said the aim is to open 165 offices, one in each Federation.

Mr Makropoulos said it is a good idea, but he agreed with Mr Buthali. We need to control the situation and we should have a proposal to show how we control these offices for the next Presidential Board meeting.

Mr Kelleher asked how they would choose clubs for the World Club Cup as the players in a team are not chosen from one country only.

Mr Borg said it was intended to use the European system, and discussions were progressing about continental representation. UAE has a high prize fund and the clubs should be from all continents. The regulations would be prepared for the next Presidential Board.

Mr. Yazici said he thanked the President and Mr. Suleiman for this excellent proposal, but the 2010 Women's Championship is given to Turkey.

Dr. Sulaiman AL-Fahid said that since they applied for 2010, Turkey should organise. They will have a Grand Prix to replace the women's championship. They are here to support chess.

The General Assembly approved the proposals.

11.13 Women's World Chess Championship cycle. Annex 36.

Mr. Makropoulos said regulations for the World Championship cycle, in line with the request of A Kosteniuk, the World Cup, Grand Prix and the match – should be finalised. These should be prepared for the Presidential Board approval.

The General Assembly approved Annex 36.

11.13.1. Women's World Chess Championship 2008.

The event was organised in Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria, Russian Federation.

Annex 18 is the Chief Arbiters' Report.

Mr. Makropoulos said that he was there for the whole period and the event was organised on a very high level. The President of Kabardino-Balkaria was Chairman of the Organising Committee and the Prime-Minister was there every day. All the players were satisfied and they are ready to go back to play other chess events. Nalchik wants to host a Women's Grand Prix.

There was criticism about the choice of Nalchik from some Federations, as their countries had issued a warning to their citizens not to travel to this destination. Nalchik is a very nice peaceful place. The Championship was a success.

President Ilyumzhinov said President Kanokov raised prize money not from the money of the Republic, but from his private account and from a private sponsor.

The General Assembly approved the report.

11.13.2. Women's World Chess Championship 2010.

Turkish Chess Federation has been awarded this event.

11.13.3. Women's Grand Prix. Annex 56.

Deputy President G. Makropoulos reported to the General Assembly.

Mr. Borg said we need to go forward with the Women's Grand Prix. We have written commitments from Lithuania, Mongolia and Istanbul, Turkey. We need in writing from China, Nalchik, Russia and Baku, Azerbaijan. It was expected to complete the commitments within two or three weeks.

The General Assembly approved the report.

11.14 Women's Team Championship 2009.

Mr. Leong said that the event will be held in Beijing following the interest after the World Mind Sports Games. The Chinese Chess Association wants to have more major chess events in China. It will be held in September.

11.15. Women's Team Championship 2011.

Deadline for bids for the 2011 event is 31st May 2009.

11.16. World Juniors and Girls Championships 2009.

The event shall take place in Argentina. Dates to be confirmed.

11.17. World Junior and Girls Championship 2010.

The event shall be held in Poland, Chotowa Czarna, 2-17 August 2010.

11.18. World Junior and Girls Championship 2011.

FIDE invites bids for the event by 31st May 2009.

11.19. World Junior and Girls Championship 2012.

FIDE invites bids by June 30th 2010

11.20. World Youth Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 2009.

The event shall be held in Turkey, Antalya, 11-23 November 2009.

11.21. World Youth Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 2010.

The event shall be held in Halkidiki, Greece from 19 to 31 October 2010.

11.22. World Youth Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 2011.

Deadline for bids is 31st May 2009.

Only African and American Federations will be permitted to bid.

General Assembly approved that 4 year cycle of bidding by Continents be implemented from 2011. European federations can bid every other year, whilst the other Continents can bid in the intervening years.

11.23. World Youth Championships U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 2012.

FIDE invites bids by June 30th 2010

11.24. World Seniors Championships 2008.

The German Chess Federation organised the event in Bad Zwischenahn from 28 October to 8 November 2008. The Federation will send a report.

11.25. World Seniors Championships 2009. Annex 39.

A bid had been received from Arco, Italy. Dates are Nov 4th – 15th

Bid of the Italian Chess Federation is accepted.

11.26. World Seniors Championships 2010.

FIDE invites bids for this event by 28th February 2009.

The General Assembly tasked the Presidential Board to decide on the organiser.

11.27. World Amateur Championship 2009.

The event shall be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 26 April to 4 May 2009.

11.28. World Amateur Championship 2010.

FIDE invites bids for the event by May 31st 2009.

11.29 World Team Championship 2009.

The event shall take place in Turkey.

Mr. Yazici said they have sponsors, in Hatay Iskanorn, next to Syrian border. The dates are to be finalised.

11.30. World Team Championship 2013.

FIDE is inviting bids for the event by December 31st 2009.

11.31. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2009.

The event shall take place in Aksar, Turkey in August 2009.

11.32. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2010.

FIDE invites bids for this event by 31st May 2009.

11.33. World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2011.

FIDE invites bids for this event by December 31st 2009.

11.34. World Schools Individual Championship 2009.

The chess club Galaxias and the International Chess Schools Union propose to organise the event in Thessaloniki, 26 April to 4 May 2009.

11.35. World Schools Individual Championship 2010.

FIDE invites bids for this event by May 31st 2009.

Interest was expressed by the Turkish Chess Federation.

11.36. World Schools Team Championship 2009. Annex 19.

The chess federation of Bulgaria and the International Chess Schools Union propose to organise the event in Varna, Bulgaria, from 11 to 21 June 2009.

FIDE decided not to organise the event, as there are no guarantees of participation from continents and federations.

11.37. World Schools Team Championship 2010.

FIDE decided not to organise the event, if we do not have guarantees on participation from continents and federations.

11.38. World Blitz Chess Championship 2008. Annex 35.

The event was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 7-8 November 2008.

World Champion is Lenier Dominguez from Cuba.

The General Assembly approved the report.

11.39. World Mind Games 2008. Annex 27

Executive Director David Jarrett informed the General Assembly.

Mr. Gelfer asked about the federations who had to pay their air tickets because of the loss of the sponsor and possible reimbursement.

Mr. Jarrett explained that there had been a sponsor obtained by the IMSA

President. There were many talks and even Messrs. Makropoulos and Balgabaev were involved. We were promised the money but it did not arrive. The sponsor blamed the financial crisis. Mr. Jarrett has submitted an invoice but we are still waiting for reaction. Mr. Balgabaev said that the sponsor, Mr. Zakoptelov, had resigned as Vice President of IMSA.

Mr. Makropoulos said the sponsor is Russian and Mr. Ilyumzhinov is pressing him. He claims he has problems with his bank. He does not say he is not paying the money to FIDE. The Greek Federation is among those Federations affected and they hope they will receive this money.

The General Assembly accepted the report.

11.40. Asian Games 2010. Annex 20

The event shall be held in Guangzhou, China, 12-27 November 2010.

Mr. Elhaj said the Asian Federations should ask the Asian Games to include more medals.

The Asian President said we have 4 medals for chess. We shall push for more. As long as we are included that is the main criterion.

11.41. 2011 All Africa Games. Annex 71.

The event will be organised in Zambia from 7 to 31st August 2011.

Chess has 11 medals.

It is intended that Zambia will also bid for the Continental Championships.

Section L: Reports of Continental Presidents.

12. Report of Continental President for Europe. Annex 75.

Continental President for Europe Boris Kutin presented his report.

There were many records in 2008: 129 Grandmasters in the championship in Plovdiv, 42 countries in the European Championship in Herzeg Novi, 60 countries in European Club Cup.

They have a collaboration agreement with Dallas University and ECU U16 champions receive 4 year scholarships for the next 3 years.

General Assembly approved the report of Continental President.

12. Report of Continental President for Americas. Annex 28.

Continental President for the Americas Jorge Vega reported.

General Assembly approved the report of Continental President.

14. Report of Asian Continental President. Annex 74.

Continental President for Asia Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahayan presented his report.

He said they are introducing a new tournament, Asian Cup, from 25th December, in Al Ain, and he welcomed all to attend.

General Assembly approved the report of the Continental President.

15. Report of African Continental President. Annex 72.

Continental President for Africa Dabilani Buthali presented his report.

The Continental Meeting had discussed preparation for various events, as well as restructuring. In 2009 there will be the inaugural African Youth Championship.

General Assembly approved the report of the Continental President including the draft CACDEC budget.

Section M: Other Matters

16. Relations with IOC. Annex 29.

Executive Director David Jarrett presented his report.

He said that a new survey will be conducted by the IOC in 2011.

Mr. Makropoulos said it is important that Federations reply to this survey as we have to report to the IOC. IOC gets the impression that we have many members but these members cannot organise their national championships etc.

Mr. Kelleher said that the IOC stresses that member bodies should have 20% female members on the board, we are a little bit short.

In response to Mr Buthali, Mr. Jarrett said two sports had been taken out of the Olympic programme. Five sports were short listed for inclusion and requested to give more detailed information. This is for 2016, but does not include chess. Unless we give much more information and they can see the breadth and depth

of chess, they will not give thought to chess. They do not believe that one third of our Federations exist, because we do not get a reply from our members.

Mr. Makropoulos said Dr. Rogge shows a lot of sympathy for chess, but he is not yet ready to admit chess into the Olympic family. He said we should work, we should lobby and inform everybody. We try to create activities, e.g. Mind Sports is one such possibility and maybe the IOC can decide in one moment that this is a good event and they should support it. In May there was a meeting with Mr. Karpov with Mr. Damiani, in Athens. We discussed the possibility of having chess in Sochi Winter Games in 2014, where Mr. Zhukov is Chairman of the Organising Committee. He is President of the Russian Chess Federation. The statutes of the Winter Games are clear, that it is only for sports on ice and snow. We have nothing to do with ice. The idea of Mr Karpov is for them to change their statutes and maybe to add Mind Sports to the statutes. We are recognised as a sport by the IOC, and this is very important. Delegates should fight in their countries.

Mr. Rajscanyi said in Lausanne during a seminar the previous week, he spoke to Dr. Rogge in this respect. He said for IOC there are two sports to be examined for inclusion for 2016, chess according to the present criteria for selection, is not included, but it is included into six other sports, which will be examined in the next period, after 2016. He encouraged us again to work with NOCs.

The General Assembly approved the report.

17. Review of the decision of the Executive Board, Dresden 2005, re Jean-Paul Touze. Annex 21 & 63

Mr Gelfer noted a correction was needed in the written recommendation from the Executive Board.

General Assembly approved the following recommendation of Executive Board after amendment.

As there has been no repentance for the gross mismanagement in the organizing of the World Youth Chess Championship in Belfort in 2005, the General Assembly confirms the decision of the Executive Board in Dresden 2005, to suspend Jean Paul Touze. In the light of the seriousness of the offence, a 5 years ban should be justified, but as the maximum suspension provided by the Code of Ethics under 3.4 for the most serious offence is 3 years, the General Assembly, without diminishing the substance of the Executive Board's decision in anyway, decides that a similar sanction should apply in this case. Therefore, the suspension imposed on J.P. Touze should be for 3 years

18. DGT. Annex 22.

Executive Director D. Jarrett informed the General Assembly of the new contract with DGT.

19. Registration of the FIDE logo. Annex 23 & 30

Executive Director D. Jarrett reported to the General Assembly. He gave a progress report on those areas where registration was still ongoing.

The General Assembly approved the report.

20. Proposal of the Armenian Chess Federation regarding Tigran Petrosian year. Annex 31.

The General Assembly discussed the proposal.

General Assembly approved that Global Chess and Marketing and PR Director come forward with a plan to commemorate chess persons as official FIDE celebrations.

21. ICCF report. Annex 37.

The General Assembly noted the report.

22. Proposal of Russian Chess Federation regarding proposal for FIDE Education Centre. Annex 61.

After discussion, Mr Makropoulos, said that these proposals were welcome but we have contracts with Global Chess and Mr Kaplan. So they have to be studied.

General Assembly approved the proposal of Mr. Makropoulos.

23. Proposal of Russian Chess Federation – for Honorary Membership for E. Dubov. Annex 66.

General Assembly approved.

24. Permanent Commission for Chess Composition. Annex 64

The General Assembly noted the report.

25. FIDE legacy from Mr. Alvaro

Mr Jarrett reported on this matter, which was still subject to probate. A plot of land is involved and the estimated value is over 100,000 euros, although there would be taxes to pay in due course. A buyer will be sought.

The President brought the meeting to a close, thanked all delegates and bid them farewell with best wishes and good health to them and their families.

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