



10 August 2023

H.E. Dimitar Iliev
Minister of Youth and Sports Bulgaria

Cc: Prof. Daniela Dasheva
Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Minister,

we would like to clarify Bulgaria's representation in FIDE (International Chess Federation) and ECU (European Chess Union). At the moment, the Bulgarian Chess Federation 1928 is legally a member of FIDE from Bulgaria. According to the FIDE Charter, only the General Assembly can exclude a representative of a country and accept another member federation. Indicatively, the next possible General Assembly is planned to take place in December 2023. We are informed that currently the license of the Ministry has been issued to another federation - Bulgarian Chess Federation 2022. However, this fact does not prejudice the decision of the General Assembly and would only be one of the factors taken into account when making a decision.

The situation regarding the membership in the ECU is even more complicated, where Bulgaria has not been formally represented by any organization for a number of years, primarily due to the well-known scandal related to misuse of funds. Both FIDE and ECU wish for the full restoration of Bulgaria's membership in both organizations and are aimed at following all legal procedures and transparency. For this purpose, a special Provisional Committee was created, by delegated representatives of FIDE and ECU who have tried to engage representatives of all Bulgarian chess federations. Such Committee has been formed with an aim to provide a joint, consensus-based management of the Bulgarian chess life in the short term, as well as at preparing the new, legitimate elections scheduled for 24 September 2023.

We would like to note that the Bulgarian Chess Federation 2022 has also been invited to participate in the work of the Committee but does not yet use this right.

With this letter we would like to kindly invite the Ministry to officially participate in the work of the Committee on the development of the rules and act like a supervisor at the elections of the new leadership of the Bulgarian Chess Federation that would be recognized according to rules and procedures of FIDE and ECU.

We would also ask the Ministry to acknowledge the legitimacy of the planned elections and issue an appropriate license based on the results of these elections. Otherwise, there is a great risk that the federation may be suspended also from FIDE and Bulgarian chess players deprived from legal representation in both international organization events.

Looking forward to our constructive cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Arkady Dvorkovich
FIDE President



Zurab Azmaiparashvili
ECU President

