



WFCC ONLINE MEETING

25.10.2024

Agenda

01

Bids for WFCC
events in 2025



02

FIDE supported
projects in 2025



03

Proposal by
Thomas Maeder



04

Any other business



To the Congress of WFCC

**PROPOSAL TO HOST THE 18th EUROPEAN CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP 2025
IN GREECE (ATHENS)**

DATE: 25-27 April 2025

LOCATION: Athens (center), Greece

VENUE: University of Athens, Main Hall

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bqwdtomxYdeUpF5n8>

right outside the “Panepistimio” metro station.

- There will be no designated hotel for the event

SCHEDULE:

Friday, Apr.25	17.00 or 17:30 - 20.30	Open Solving (Captains’ meeting 15’ prior)
Saturday, Apr. 26	10:30 - 14:00	ECSC 1st day
	evening	relevant events
Sunday, Apr. 27	09:30 - 13:00	ECSC 2nd day
	16:00 (approximately)	Closing ceremony

ENTRY FEE: 70 EUR (85 EUR for registrations after 1st of March 2025, 20 EUR for participation in the Open only)

TRAVEL, HOTELS: The transportation from the airport El. Venizelos (ATH) to the Venue is easy and affordable (metro or bus, around 50-70 min, price 6-9 euros).

Hundreds of hotels/Airbnb in walking distance!

ORGANISATION: Nikos & George Mendrinis (the same “team” of ECSC 2019, which was widely acknowledged as a great success).

With the support of Greek Chess Federation.

We look forward to hosting this important event in Greece!

Nikos & George Mendrinis

Athens, September 2024

Offer from Estonia to host the WCCC 2025 in Tallinn

Being a small country Estonia is surprisingly big in chess. Not so much in problem chess, but the potential is there if we nurture it. WCCC would be perfect for sowing seeds in fertile ground. We have never before hosted a Problem Chess Conference but larger chess tournaments are recurring.

Good weather in October is a gamble, but the Old Town Tallinn is worthwhile visiting at any time of the year, the number of tourists attest to this. Tallinn is one of the smallest capital cities, and the international Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport (TLL) is nearby. A taxi would take you to the hotel in just 10 minutes.

The Kalev SPA Hotel (4 star) is ready to accommodate us

4/10 - 11/10 2025

Room for 1 95 EUR / night

Room for 2 110 EUR / night

Room for 3 135 EUR / night

Room for 4 155 EUR / night

This includes breakfast, limitless visits to the SPA, and free wifi. A three-course buffet lunch is offered separately at the hotel for 20 EUR and a three-course dinner for 25 EUR.

The conference participation fee would be 120 EUR. For accompanying persons 60 EUR would include the traditional opening gathering & closing banquet.

If need be there are other affordable hotels within walking distance. Regarding food, the Old Town is famous for its many restaurants, and the nearby Viru shopping mall for its Food Street with all kinds of street food.

Kalev SPA Hotel is located just outside the Old Town Wall, with a three-minute walk to the Paul Keres Chess House where most of the conference activities would be organized.

The Paul Keres Chess House, in the Old Town, is an interesting medieval building. It has been a haven for chess-related activities, checkers, and renju since 1975. This will be a welcoming place for our solving and all other activities.

In the house, there also is a chess library comprising, among other things, almost 3000 titles stemming from the Dombrovskis collection in St. Petersburg and about 2000 items from Paul Keres personal library.

Estonia is an EU/Schengen country. Travel to Estonia is regulated by the general rules for EU/Schengen.

Indrek Aunver indrek.aunver@gmail.com

appointed Estonian delegate of the WFCC

Margus Sööt margussoot@gmail.com

chairman of the board of the

Estonian Chess Support Association (reg. 80308503)

in cooperation with the Kalev SPA Hotel and
the Paul Keres Chess House in Tallinn

Offer to Organize the 67th World Congress of Chess Composition and 48th World Chess Solving Championship in Montenegro

Herceg Novi, Montenegro, October 4–11, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the **Montenegro Sports Tourism Corporation**, submit our offer to organize the 67th World Congress of Chess Composition and the 48th World Chess Solving Championship in Montenegro from October 4th to 11th, 2025.

Having successfully organized the international chess composition festival in 2012 and the 10th European Chess Solving Championship in 2014, we bring significant experience and commitment to delivering an exceptional event. Montenegro's natural beauty and welcoming atmosphere make it an ideal destination, not only for high-level chess competitions but also for a memorable vacation experience.

Venue and Accommodation:

The event will be held at the **Carine Hotel Kumbor Superior 4***, located in the scenic town of Herceg Novi (more details can be found in the attachment). This hotel offers excellent facilities and services to ensure participants' comfort and satisfaction.

- **Accommodation Prices:**

- Single room: €115 per person, per day
- Double room: €75 per person, per day

Included in the accommodation prices: breakfast, lunch (with non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages), dinner (with non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages), and free Wi-Fi.

Participation Fee: €120 per participant, which includes the opening and closing banquets, an excursion, a welcome gift, and a badge.

Companion Fee: €60, which also covers the opening and closing banquets, excursion, welcome gift, and badge.

Montenegro is easily accessible, with two international airports located in **Podgorica** and **Tivat**, and the nearby **Dubrovnik** airport in Croatia offering additional travel options.

We believe that hosting this prestigious event in Montenegro will provide a unique experience for participants, combining a competitive atmosphere with the chance to enjoy our stunning landscapes and culture.

We look forward to your consideration and would be honoured to host this esteemed chess event.

Sincerely,

Yury Dolgulev

Montenegro Sports Tourism Corporation





Hotel Kumbor

SUPERIOR

★★★★

Airport

Airport name	Code	Distance from hotel
TIVAT	TIV	17 km
DUBROVNIK	DBV	45 km
PODGORICA	TGD	90 km

TRANSPORTATION TO - FROM THE AIRPORT


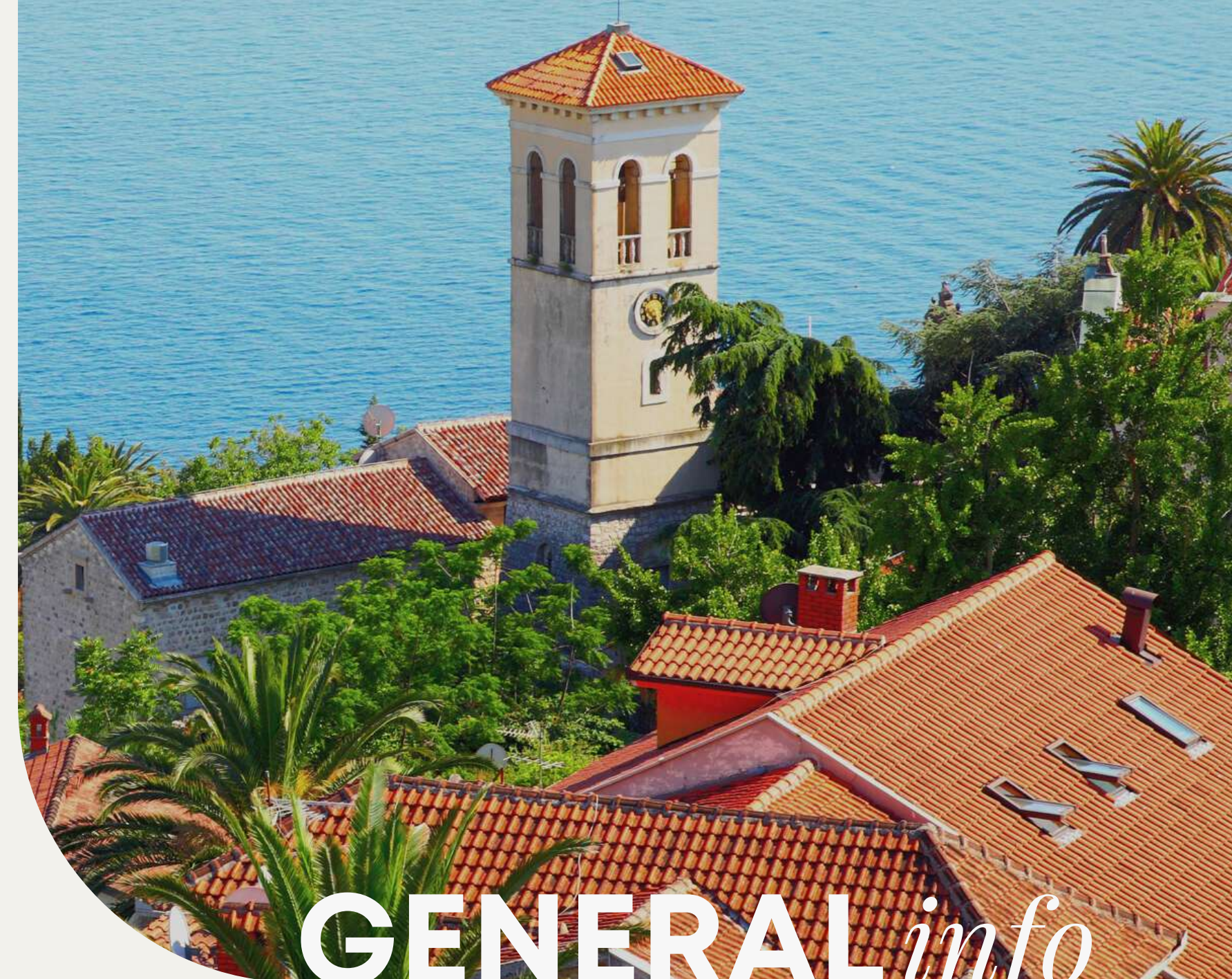
Airport name	ORGANIZED		PUBLIC		Car with driver	TAXI
	private	group	bus	taxi		
TIVAT	✓	✓	✓	✓		
PODGORICA	✓	✓	✓	✓		
DUBROVNIK	✓	✓				

Distance to bus stop 200 m
Distance to taxi stop In front of the hotel

Contact: transfer@carinedmc.me

TRANSPORTATION TO - FROM THE CITY/TOWN

City name	bus	taxi
HERCEG NOVI	✓	✓
KOTOR	✓	✓
BUDVA	✓	✓

GENERAL info

Places of Interest



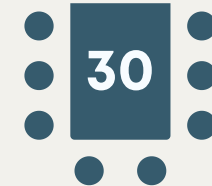
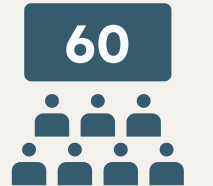
Place of Interest	Distance from hotel
HERCEG NOVI	6 km
TIVAT	15 km
KOTOR	35 km
BUDVA	40 km
DUBROVNIK	60 km

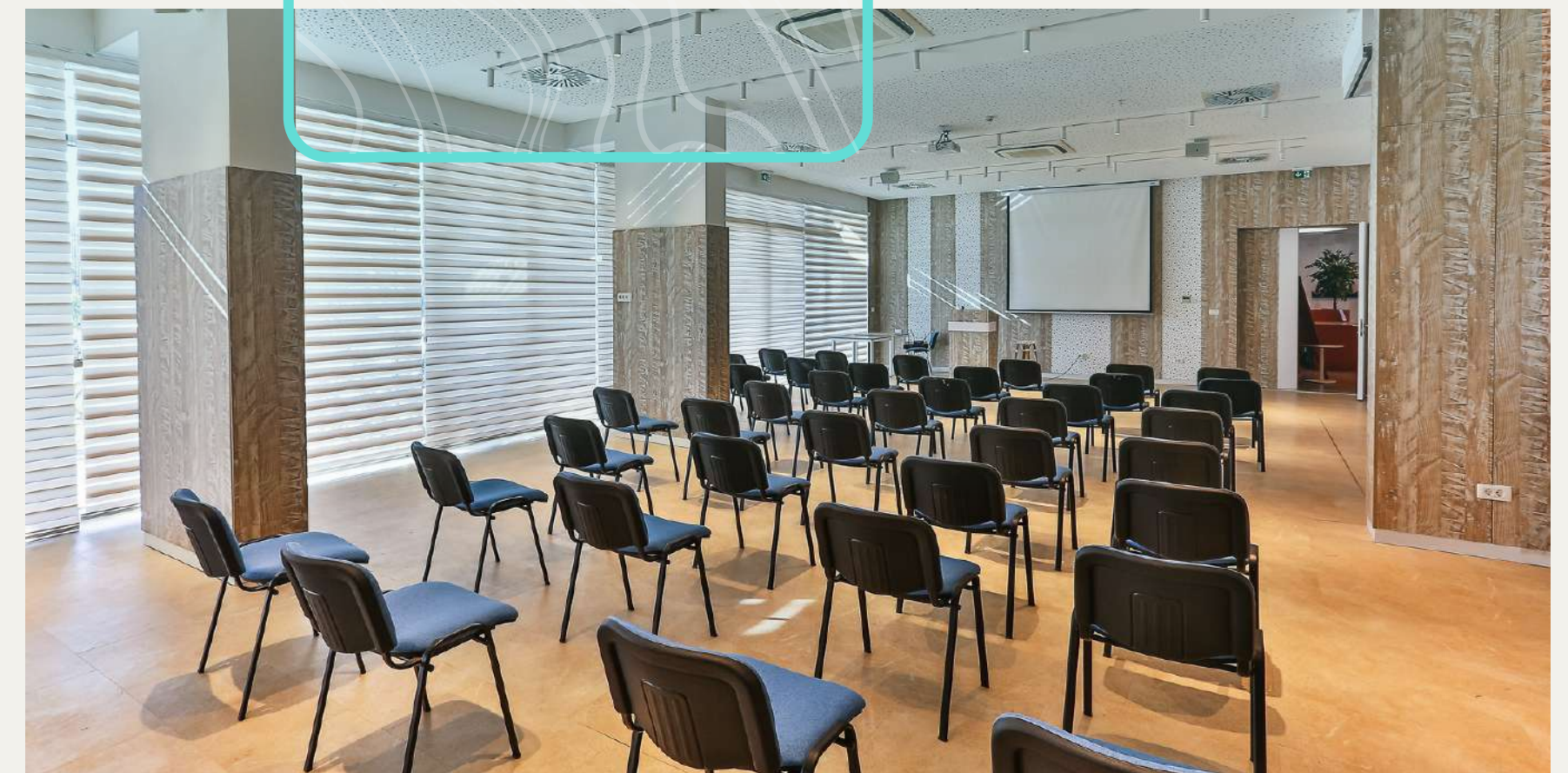


	MAIN BUILDING	ANNEX
Type	Monoblock / 6 floors	Monoblock / 6 floors
Year of construction	2019	2022
No. of rooms	231	56
No. of beds	550	180
Wi - Fi	Yes in all areas, FOC	
Air Conditioning	Yes in all areas	
Accessibility	Yes	
Gym	Yes, cardio program and weight machines	
Parking	Outside and garage	
Languages	English, French, German, Italian	
Credi cards accepted	Master Card, Visa	
Boards	All inclusive	

	NAME	TYPE	CAPACITY
 RESTAURANTS	Main restaurant	Buffet style (07:00-23:00)	500
	OLIVE	Lobby bar (07:00-23:00)	100
BARS	Resturant bar	07:00-10:00 and 18:30-21:00	500
	Pecurka	Beach bar (10:30 - 18:30)	100
		<i>Beach snack bar from 01.06.-15.09. (10:30 - 18:00)</i>	

CONFERENCE HALL

	CARINE	BOARDROOM
Size	120 m2	60 m2
Height	3,50 m	3,50 m
Floor	LVT	LVT
Column	No	No
Equipment	Projector, microphone, office material	Projector, microphone, office material
Capacity	 60 U-Shape	 100 Classroom
		 30 U-Shape
		 60 Classroom





CARINE
HOTELS

Hotel Kumbor

SUPERIOR
★★★★★



FEDERAȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE ȘAH

Str. Vasile Conta nr. 16, Sector 2
București, România, Cod Poștal 020954
Tel.: +40 21 3174701 / 02
Email: contact@frsah.ro
www.frsah.ro

No. 374 / 05.09. 2024

Dear Mr. Marjan Kovačević,

President of World Federation for Chess Composition

The Romanian Chess Federation is honoured to present its offer for organising in 2025 – year when we shall celebrate our centennial – the World Congress for Chess Composition and the World Chess Solving Championship.

Our proposal as period is **5-12 July 2025** and as host the city of **Alba Iulia**, an historical place for our country, where it is the largest fortress in Romania.

Alba Iulia is an important chess center, hosting from 2016 till now the International Chess Tournament of Romania and from 2022 the final of the circuit Grand Prix Romania.

The co-organiser of the event will be Mihnea Costachi Chess Academy, led by the best Romanian solver, which has recently received the title of International Master at solving, already held by him at the over-the board chess.

Accommodation:

Hotel Cetate* (main venue, with the playing hall and the conference room)**

- single room: 60 euro / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- double room: 75 euro / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- triple room (apartment): 90 euro / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included

The restaurant of the hotel has live music every evening.

Hotel Transilvania****

- single room 4* superior: 75 euros / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- double room 4* superior: 86 euros / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- single room 3* standard: 60 euro /room/ night with breakfast and local taxes included
- double room 3* standard: 75 euro /room /night with breakfast and local taxes included

Registration fee for official participants: 90 euro

Registration fee for accompanying persons: 50 euro

Surcharge for not staying in the official hotels (Cetate and Transilvania): 90 euro

In the fee is included the guided tour (in English) of Alba Carolina fortress (10 July) and the final banquet (11 July).

The organizer provides transfer (for a price which shall be announced in due time) from and to:

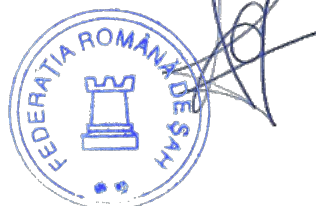
- Cluj-Napoca International Airport (110 km)
- Sibiu International Airport (75 km)

We hope that the delegates at the online meeting of the World Federation for Chess Composition will give us the chance to organize for the first time in Romania this huge event!

Respectfully,

Gabriel Grecescu

Secretary general of the Romanian Chess Federation



**67th WORLD CONGRESS OF CHESS
COMPOSITION AND
48th WORLD CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP**

ALBA IULIA, Transylvania, 5 – 12 July 2025

Alba Iulia - the largest fortress in Romania

*Below you can find our offer for World Solving Chess Championship 2025.
It would be an honor to be your host next year!*

Hotel Cetate* Room rates:**

- single room at 60 euros / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- double room at 75 euros / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included
- triple room (apartment) at 90 euros / room / night with breakfast and local taxes included

We put at your disposal the following:

- Ballroom for 4 days (official playing hall) and Conference room for the entire period
- Guided tour of Alba Carolina Citadel with a licensed guide in English
- Live music every evening in the restaurant

Our restaurant is opened daily from 12.00 till 22.00 where you can serve lunch and dinner.

Hotel Transilvania****

Room rates:

Room type	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard rooms 3***	60 EUR	75 EUR
Superior rooms 4****	75 EUR	86 EUR

The rates are expressed in Euro and include breakfast, VAT, tourist promotion tax, guided tour of the Alba Carolina Citadel.



Organizers: Mihnea Costachi Chess Academy & Romanian Chess Federation

Registration fee: 90 eur

Registration fee for accompanying persons: 50 eur

Surcharge for not choosing the official Hotels (Cetate and Transilvania): 90 eur

The organizer provides transfer for a fee (which shall be announced in due time) from and to:

- Cluj-Napoca International Airport (110 km)*
- Sibiu International Airport (75 km)*

*Guided excursion in Alba Iulia citadel (the largest in Romania) is included!
Final banquet on July 11th is included.*

Alba Iulia - Photo gallery



Direct flights to Cluj-Napoca and Sibiu International Airports

Cluj-Napoca International Airport 'Avram Iancu'

- Bucharest (Romania)
- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- Alicante (Spain)
- Barcelona (Spain)
- Bari (Italy)
- Basel (Switzerland)
- Bergamo (Italy)
- Bologna (Italy)
- Budapest (Hungary)
- Brussels Charleroi (Belgium)
- Catania-Sicily (Italy)
- Corfu (Greece)
- Crete Chania (Greece)
- Dortmund (Germany)
- Dublin (Ireland)

- Eindhoven (Netherlands)
- Frankfurt Hahn (Germany)
- Istanbul (Turkey)
- Larnaca (Cyprus)
- Leeds (United Kingdom)
- Lisbon (Portugal)
- London Luton (United Kingdom)
- London Stansted (United Kingdom)
- Lyon (France)
- Malaga (Spain)
- Madrid (Spain)
- Malmo (Sweden)
- Memmingen (Germany)
- Munich (Germany)
- Naples (Italy)
- Nice (France)
- Nuremberg (Germany)
- Palma de Mallorca (Spain)
- Paris Beauvais (France)
- Rome Fiumicino (Italy)

- Stuttgart (Germany)
- Valencia (Spain)
- Warsaw (Poland)
- Venice (Italy)
- Vienna (Austria)
- Zaragoza (Spain)
- Zakynthos (Greece)
- Zurich (Switzerland)

During summer (2024):

- Larnaca (Cyprus)
- Dubai (UAE)
- Hurghada (Egypt)
- Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt)
- Crete Heraklion (Greece)
- Patras (Greece)
- Rhodos (Greece)
- Skiathos (Greece)
- Monastir (Tunisia)
- Enfidha (Tunisia)

- Antalya (Turkey)
- Alanya Gazipasa (Turkey)

Source:

[Destinations – Cluj Airport \(airportcluj.ro\)](http://airportcluj.ro)

Observation:

Even not with direct flights, several European cities (e.g. Athens, Vilnius, Riga) have good connections for Cluj-Napoca!

Sibiu International Airport

- Barcelona (Spain)
- Dortmund (Germany)
- Karlsruhe Baden-Baden (Germany)
- Londra Luton (United Kingdom)
- Memmingen (Germany)
- Milano Malpensa (Italy)
- Munchen (Germany)
- Nurnberg (Germany)
- Roma (Italy)
- Stuttgart (Germany)
- Vienna (Austria)

During summer:

- Antalya (Turkey)
- Crete Heraklion (Greece)
- Hurghada (Egypt)
- Monastir (Tunisia)
- Rhodes (Greece)

Source: [Destination map \(sibiuairport.ro\)](http://sibiuairport.ro)

FIDE World Cup in Composing and other FIDE supported projects

Dear delegates, honorary members, and other active promoters of chess composition,

As you know, since 2018 the yearly WFCC budget donated by FIDE has been 3000€ (after dropping from 10000€ down, and then from 5000€ down).

In the period 2019-23, FIDE allocated yearly budget of 10000€ for the FIDE World Cup in Composing: 4000€ to the 8 winners, 4000€ to the 8 judges, 1000€ to the director and 1000€ for other expenses (cups, medals, certificates, etc). The FIDE initial decision was that the World Cup budget should be the only support to WFCC, but luckily the WFCC yearly budget of 3000€ remained.

The FIDE World Cup was personally initiated and organized by Andrey Selivanov and his team, while WFCC was approving it. The sanctions on Russia prevented smooth organization in 2023, and in 2024 we were left without the WC organizing team.

The FIDE Executive Officer Victor Bologan kindly offered WFCC not to lose this part of FIDE support in 2024, but to reallocate the same 10000€ to the three new FIDE supported projects: the FIDE Youth Solving Events (4000€), FIDE Album (3000€), and a booklet celebrating FIDE Centenary (3000€).

The booklet with 101 endgames from the period 1924-2024, selected and commented by Gady Costeff, is currently in the process of preparations by the publisher Peter Gvozdják.

The FIDE Album Committee will suggest where to allocate the relevant part of the FIDE support, and that will surely help us in regular work.

Preparations for the 1st FIDE & WFCC World Solving Championships for Cadets and Juniors have been going on intensively, as you might have seen in the WFCC social media or on the FIDE website:

<https://www.fide.com/news/3125>

<https://fide.com/news/3181>

All promotional activities for the FIDE solving events have been based on volunteering; including a series of free online solving lessons, organized by young Anirudh Daga and me (317 participants registered by now). Two more sessions remained, and it's still possible to [register here](#).

The FIDE supported budget for the inaugural events in Brazil (4th November) and Italy (21st November) is allocated for the costs of the competitions, including expenses of selector, director and helpers among WFCC members.

FIDE World Cup from 2025 on

In the recent talk, Mr. Bologan announced FIDE will be willing to keep supporting FIDE special projects in chess composition with the same amount of 10000€ in 2025. He expressed satisfaction with development of the FIDE solving events, and his wish to include solving in other FIDE events and among other age categories. At the same time, he pointed that it is on WFCC to decide what projects will be offered in the frames of the same 10000€ budget.

Many composers would like to see the tradition of the World Cup going on. In the new circumstances we should decide about possible changes in its format, budget and organizing team.

While considering the questions below, do have in mind the concrete jobs to be done and your own possible contribution to them:

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup in the same format and with the same budget as before?
2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:
 - a) every second year?
 - b) yearly, but covering half of the genres (4) each year?
 - c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections?
(For instance, one year with #2, #3, S#2-3, h#2-3, helpselfmates, and proof-games, and next year: #n, endgames, S#n, h#n, other fairies and classic retro)
3. What part of the FIDE yearly support should be spent on the World Cup and on what expenses that money should be distributed?
4. Would you be ready to personally support your proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?
5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

Send your comments and suggestions during the next week or so. The bids for WCCC & ECSC 2025 (deadline 5th October), as well as your suggestions for the FIDE supported projects, will be on the table for voting during an online Meeting, around 25th October.

Dear all,

Three weeks ago I asked for your opinions about the future of the FIDE World Cup in Composing and other FIDE supported projects. Yesterday, I accepted the last portion of comments, coming from 12 (out of 43) delegates and 10 other prominent composers and organizers. **Many thanks to all of you who have contributed, and especially to those who offered their personal services to support their proposals!**

All contributors have agreed their replies may be presented to the others. So, **you will find each reply in the attached document**, in the order of appearance. I hope it will be interesting for you, the same as it was for me, to get to know the wide diversity of wishes, suggestions and opinions in our small community.

At the end of this note you will find the list of suggested questions for voting on 25th October. Feel free to suggest any changes, but not later than on 20th October!

As a summary of different opinions, you may see here an **approximate distribution of concrete preferences by the contributors:**

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup in the same yearly format?

We don't need FIDE World Cup at all: 2

Yes, the same yearly format: 5

Different formats: 12

1a) Should the World Cup spend the whole yearly budget for the FIDE supported projects (10000 EUR)?

Yes: 5

Nothing: 2

A part: 10

A part should support young composers and other projects: 5

2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:

a) every second year (mostly to give more time to organizers and judges): 6

b) yearly, but covering half of the genres each year: 1

c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections: 6

3. Concrete proposals for the yearly FIDE World Cup budget:

2000 EUR: 1
3000 EUR: 1
5000 EUR: 3
6000 EUR: 1
10.000 EUR: 5

3b) Different suggestions for allocating the yearly FIDE World Cup budget:

Prize money split on the three medalists: 2
Fees for the judges and director are more important than prizes: 3
Exclude the cups: 2
Exclude the director's fee. I'm ready to do it without a fee: 1

4. Would you be ready to support your own proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?

Director without fee: 1
Director with the same fee same as was before: 2
President of the newly formed commission for FIDE WC: 1
A judge: 1

Other suggestions for FIDE WC:

The winners should be included in the FIDE Album: 2
Judges should be suggested by delegates, 1 from each country
First to announce the budget and then to call for bids for the director: 1

5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

2 suggestions

Suggested list of questions for voting on 25.10.24:

1. Do we need the FIDE supported World Cup?

Yes

No

2. What part of the planned yearly budget for the FIDE supported projects (10000 EUR) should be spent on the FIDE World Cup in Composing (remaining funds would be allocated to youth competitions, FIDE Album, and other possible FIDE related projects)?

10000 EUR

8000 EUR

6000 EUR

5000 EUR

3000 EUR

2000 EUR

0 EUR

3. Voting for one of the two options that got the highest number of votes

A-

B-

4. Should WFCC reestablish the long tradition of FIDE Olympic Tourneys in Composing on even years (2026, 2028, 2030...), under the same or similar conditions as for the FIDE World Cup in Composing (to be organized during odd years: 2025, 2027, 2029)?

5. Who would be willing to be a member of an organizing team/commission for composing tourneys such as World Cup and Olympic tourneys? (public acceptance)

P. S. Putting the last two questions on voting will depend on the discussions.

See you on Friday, 25th October, 6PM CET, during the WFCC online Meeting, when the delegates will have other things to discuss, too.

Replies, in the order of appearance:

Marco Guida:

1. Current format is like "yet another Tourney", with a single judge for each Section. It has the status of World Cup essentially under "marketing / branding" perspective. I feel that it should be maintained (it has its momentum already as a tourney) but ideally it should be changed as judging is concerned to guarantee a quality, fair and independent judging process. Ideally 3 judges, but I feel that asking 3 people not to participate might be a big obstacle to find each time high quality judges... To be practical, ultimately, let us stay with the current format! Finding 1 judge to assess a limited number of problems should not be too difficult.

2. My preference among your proposed alternatives go to having all sections, once every 2 years. Doing it every 2 years will allow more time for organisation, most notably for judging (last time Selivanov asked me to judge #2, but I had to refuse since all should be done in less than 1 month in a period of the year when I had already planned 2 weeks of holidays with my family).

3. Budget: I feel it should only cover money prizes for each Section winner (possibly the only thing that would still make the competition different from most of the Tourneys) and medals for the top-3 in each Section. Probably 5.000. € would be enough.

4. As my personal contribution to future FIDE World Cup, I am open to act as a judge (in #2), if the Director would feel that I am ok for the task. I am less keen to act as Director: too much of administrative / editorial work ... I have been Director in one of the past FIDE Album and I feel that FIDE World Cup will be much more demanding over a much shorter period of time. I am not saying "Never", but it will depend very much on "when".

Marco

P.S. Yesterday I had a quick chat on the topic of FIDE World Cup with Mario PARRINELLO. He believes that offering some money to Judges & Director will also be helpful to secure quality judges, as a compensation for not being allowed to participate themselves.

I also believe that if FIDE WC will be held every 2 years it would make sense. Over 2 years you will have 20.000 from FIDE, of which 50% will finance one FIDE WC and 50% will remain available to finance other projects.

I would be reluctant to offer money to judges in case of yearly frequency, since I believe that other projects aiming to secure a future to chess composition (composing and solving) need and deserve some funding ...

Vlaicu Crisan:

Please find below the answers provided by the active Romanian chess composers present at WCCC:

1. Three of us say "No", the fourth says "Yes".

2. Option c) seems attractive for three of us.

3. No answer.

4-5. Two of us: no answer, the other two: "I would prefer not to".

Now, let me elaborate a little bit these answers.

Ovidiu thinks - and I agree with him - FIDE World Cup could be sponsored by other multinational societies, not necessary only from FIDE. Expecting a success ratio of 2%, one must make 100 inquiries to get 2 positive answers. Ovidiu is the only one who thinks the current format should be preserved and the budget increased. He thinks that young composers will be attracted to chess

composition only when they will see this activity has a future and they can win some money. Please keep in mind that Ovidiu is the only one who is training kids to play chess.

Paul and Eric won't cry too much if the sections #2, #3, s#2-3 and h#2-3 would be completely removed. 😊

For the role of World Cup Director I think it should be someone who knows both English and Russian languages, which automatically disqualifies us.

Please keep in mind three of us have / had editing experience: Paul - Quartz, Eric - Mat Plus, I - Problem Paradise.

We all know how difficult is to find judges and to be held responsible when these judges fail to accomplish their promise to deliver timely an award.

Therefore I think this responsibility should be somehow passed to the WFCC delegates themselves. Each delegate should nominate one judge and only one section. The World Cup Director should only choose among the nominated countries, making sure no country appears more than once in the final list.

Another concern is the communication with the composers. I would prefer all this process to be automated - not only for the FIDE World Cup, but for all WFCC official competitions including YCCC: it should be not the director's responsibility to enter manually the position / solution from a hand made drawing or a screenshot! As an editor I regularly have this kind of experience with many other composers. That's why I would recommend using an online platform such as MatPlus.net for submitting the originals for the FIDE World Cup.

Last, but not least, I have some concerns. Due to economic sanctions imposed to Russia, it might be difficult to make money transfers. Some composers (and judges) complained in the past they didn't receive the money when Andrey Selivanov acted as FIDE World Cup Director. In case the director will be from an European country respecting the sanctions, then the same issue might happen with the money transfers to Russian winners / judges. Eric thinks this issue can be neglected, considering FIDE has bank accounts everywhere in the world, but I think this is not applicable for WFCC as well.

Vlaicu

Julia Vysotska:

1a)

Decreased budget

2

2b) or 2c) - to give more time to organizers, judges and composer to reach a higher quality

3b)

Composing is a hobby and pleasure by itself. It's normal to pay for your hobby, and to pay to judges who have more work and less pleasure in the process.

4

No.

5

No.

Michal Dragoun:

I am sending my negativistic notes concerning the World Cup in composing. Please note that all are purely my personal opinions and that meanings of the Czech delegate, who is representative of Czech problemist association, can be completely different.

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup in the same format and with the same budget as before?

No. (My feeling based on lists of participants is that it did not acquire some wider popularity in former "western Europe" and thus it is not something comparable e.g. to WCCT. In my opinion there is no need for World Cup at all.)

2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:

a) every second year?

b) yearly, but covering half of the genres (4) each year?

c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections?

(For instance, one year with #2, #3, S#2-3, h#2-3, helpselfmates, and proof-games, and next year: #n, endgames, S#n, h#n, other fairies and classic retro)

From these three I consider the possibility 2a as the best one, as some amount of work is needed every time and thus e.g. 2×2b is more work than 1×2a.

3. What part of the FIDE yearly support should be spent on the World Cup and on what expenses that money should be distributed?

Nothing. I would allocate some part of the support to the organization and prizes in tourneys for beginning composers - I think it is already so, although probably from different source. (Off topic concerning the payments for the World Cup judges – e.g. judges of FIDE Album or WCCI have much more work and they receive no reward, but of course, I don't know, if some reward for them is realistic in the relation to the FIDE, as FA and WCCI have longer periods.)

4. Would you be ready to personally support your proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?

I am not prepared to participate in World Cup in any way.

5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

No.

To be not only negative - I like the idea of FIDE support of publications devoted to chess composition. In the case that it would be continued and in the case of existence of some editorial team (which depends very much on some leading organizer like Peter Gvozdiák for FIDE Album) I offer my help in this field (e.g. with proof reading like in FA).

Michal

Mario Parrinello:

I have in general positive feelings for this competition and generally speaking for any tournament that promotes our art.

In more detail, I was not able to answer all your questions but I'm convinced that this competition should be maintained and that it should include all sections without splitting them.

In regard whether it would be organized every year rather than every second year I have more doubts and concerns since it is strictly linked to one of the most challenging organizational problems, namely lack of volunteers.

I suggest to allocate a prize money (say 200 euros or so, this is just indicative) also for all judges and directors; that would perhaps convince some people to willingly face the judging/directing duty instead to take part in the competition as composer. By the way, I would be willing to act as judge, even without prize money, but my job prevents me to accept the duty, at least at the moment.

Mario

Peter Gvozdjak:

We had a meeting of composers during the weekend, so i had a chance to discuss your questions with some guys around.

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup in the same format and with the same budget as before?

the same format: definitely yes.

the same budget: not sure - see below.

2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:

a) every second year?

b) yearly, but covering half of the genres (4) each year?

c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections?

no. imho, any of these proposals disrupts the clear and successfully repeated format of the world cup.

3. What part of the FIDE yearly support should be spent on the World Cup and on what expenses that money should be distributed?

no idea. this should be discussed in the assembly to get some common opinion.

4. Would you be ready to personally support your proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?

5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

answer to both 4. and 5.: i think if some money is allocated for the director, then we wfcc find candidates. this job is much shorter and simpler than, say, the director of wcct.

i suggest that wfcc first decides on point 3.

once the duties and money reward for the director are clear, a call for bids (for the position of the world cup director) can be announced.

peter

p.s. during discussions with the fellow composers, concerns appeared about the projects not labelled "fide".

if the original funding for "fide" world cup splits into more projects, it may happen in the future that fide stops giving money for projects where the name "fide" is missing.

MK – reply to the P.S: All FIDE supported projects contain the name FIDE

Valery Kopyl:

Ukraine is of the opinion that the **FIDE World Cup should be held in the former format: in 8 sections annually, with a total budget of 10000€.** The only point that could be adjusted would be to award money prizes to composers in the top three positions (instead of the sole winner) in each section.

Moreover, we believe that the WFCC leadership is to blame for the failure to conduct the traditional World Cup in 2024. The World Cup is chess composers' third most important tournament, after WCCT and WCCI. FIDE provided funds precisely for the World Cup as a FIDE-supported project.

Therefore, it is certainly inadmissible to reallocate FIDE's target funding to other WFCC competitions. Attracting funds from sponsors for holding WCCT, WCCI, solvers' world and European championships would be the right approach.

Ukrainian composers are ready to act as judges in any World Cup sections in 2025. We are also ready to nominate a candidate for the position of World Cup 2025 Director.

Ukraine is of the opinion that no separate WFCC Committee or Commission is required for organizing and holding the FIDE World Cup, since the entire organization of the tournament can be implemented by the Director appointed by WFCC leadership.

We also believe that after February 24, 2022 (the day when the Russian Federation began its invasion of Ukraine to seize territories and exterminate Ukrainians), no representative of Russia should be a member of any WFCC Committee.

Moreover, we would like to draw your attention once again to the unacceptably long pause between the end of WCCT-11 and the start of WCCT-12. The WCCT-12 Director must be selected/appointed as soon as possible; then the Director will select the judges, hold a voting on the proposed themes and provide for the start of WCCT-12 not later than March 1, 2025.

Valery

Johan de Boer:

I have forwarded this mail to some chess problem friends to ask for their opinion. The only reaction I got was that this person supported the idea of organizing the World Cup **every second year**. And I also agree with this opinion.
Johan

Andrey Selivanov:

Мое мнение следующее.

ФИДЕ передало бюджет кубка WFCC для финансирования кубка.

Поэтому кубок должен быть сохранен.

Для его продолжения я предлагал и сохраняю это предложение - необходимо создать Комиссию по Кубку мира ФИДЕ, Я готов работать в комиссии, готов быть председателем комиссии и директором кубка. Также директором кубка готов быть Алексей Оганесян, но при оплате как ранее 1000 евро.

Что касается комиссии, то она набирает судей для каждого кубка, решает спорные вопросы.

Что касается бюджета кубка, то я поддерживаю предложения сделать 3 денежных приза и считаю разумным вариантом: 350, 250 и 100 евро и оплата судьи - 300 евро. Всего -8000 евро.

Директору надо сохранить 1000 евро - это очень большая работа.

1000 евро остается в бюджете WFCC на кубки, медали и сертификаты которые изготавливает организатор Конгресса (ему WFCC передает 1000 евро).

Буклет Кубка изготавливается в электронном виде.

Призовые задачи кубка (1-3 место) автоматически должны попадать в Альбом ФИДЕ.

И допускаю возможный вариант проведения Кубка 1 раз в 2 года (2025, 2027 и т.д.). Между этими датами бюджет остается на нужды WFCC. Кстати, изначально с Петковым мы так и делали - один год Кубок мира, другой год - Олимпийский конкурс.

Олимпийские конкурсы должны проводить страны -организаторы олимпиад, но комиссия может помочь подобрать судей. И олимпийские конкурсы также должны иметь статус турниров ФИДЕ.

Андрей

Anatoly Slesarenko:

1. Кубок ФИДЕ необходимо проводить ежегодно.
2. Формат оставить прежним (по жанрам композиции).
3. Призовой фонд увеличить до 1 000 Евро на раздел, НО распределить как 500-300-200 (1-2 3 место)
4. Если не получится, то оставить фонд прежним с распределением 300-200-100, 100 евро взять из фонда арбитра.
5. Предлагаю назначить постоянным директором Селиванова А.

Задачу победитель кубка – без отбора включать в АФ соответствующего трехлетия.

Zoran Gavrilovski:

(on behalf of the country's WFCC delegate Nikola Stolev)

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup?

Yes.

2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:

a) every second year?

b) yearly, but covering half of the genres (4) each year?

c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections?

(For instance, one year with #2, #3, S#2-3, h#2-3, helpselfmates, and proof-games, and next year: #n, endgames, S#n, h#n, other fairies and classic retro)

c)

3. What part of the FIDE yearly support should be spent on the World Cup and on what expenses that money should be distributed?

400 x 13 (6 winners + 6 judges + 1 Director of FWC) = 5.200 EUR + ?? EUR for bank transfer fees.

4. Would you be ready to personally support your proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?

I'm too busy, but in an extreme case of having nobody to take over the FWC Director's roles, I might be able to assume this responsibility sometimes in the future.

5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

No.

Torsten Linss:

Sections:

1) twomovers, 2) threemovers, 3) moremovers, 4) endgame studies, 5) helpmates, 6) selfmates, 7) heterodox problems (all compositions adhering to standard chess rules, [i.e., no fairies, b+w moving alternatingly,] but not in groups 1-6 or 9), 8) fairies (real fairies, with fairy conditions or pieces, series movers), 9) retros and proof games

Alternatives:

Retro: We may alternatively hold it for proof games one year and for classical retros the other year.

$h\# \rightarrow h\#2-3 + h\#n$: possible

similarly, we may have group 2 for #3 and #4, and group 3 for #n, $n > 4$.

This separation was used successfully by Schach-Aktiv (Chlubna, Seehofer) for many years.

Prize money (in each section):

1st/2nd/3rd prize: 50/30/20 EUR

(If judges decide to not award prizes the money will be distributed amongst the 1st/2nd/3rd placed problems.)

Honorarium for judges: 100 EUR

Certificates for all problems that have been awarded prizes, to be distributed by email (as PDF) and at the following WFCC meeting.

No cups.

Financials:

prize money: $9 \cdot 100$ EUR

honorarium: $9 \cdot 100$ EUR

accidentals: 200 EUR

Σ : 2000 EUR

Alternatives:

Increase the prize money. [My main thoughts were guided by the fact, that you can better use the money to support young problemists. And the World Cup should be attractive because it's the World Cup, not so much because of the cash prizes offered.]

Schedule:

announcement: February, 28

closing date: May, 31

awards due: August, 15

preliminary awards: August, 31

claims: September, 30

definite awards: October, 31

afterwards distribution of certificates and money prizes.

Director: Torsten Linß

Judges: problemists willing to act as judges are asked to contact the director

Torsten

Paz Einat:

1) Keeping the budget as before might be fine, but I support changing the format as suggested in "2"

2) Suggested 2c is very interesting, and I really like it, but its drawback is that in terms of "lack of volunteers" it gets closer to the original WC with 8 sections. Thus, **2b might be somewhat more practical.**

3) **Within the framework of a 3000€ budget the work by organizers and judges must be on voluntary basis** and I think the budget can cover only cups, medals and certificates. If a higher budget will be available this can be changed.

4) I am willing to take part in this endeavor, currently in a relatively minor role as my time is limited by professional obligations. This may change in the next couple of years and I'll be able to allocate more time for this. **We can assign a team for the various duties instead of one individual.**

5) I think this should emerge from personal willingness and not by suggesting someone. We might distribute a call for that and select someone from those offering to undertake that role.

Paz

Michel Caillaud:

I never participated in the World Cup but I know it is motivating for some other composers and I support the idea that it should go on.

I could be a judge, but I am not so much interested in the money attached to it, knowing that some others (as Andrey Frolkin for the retros) would need it much more...

Michel

Marko Klasinc:

My opinion regarding FIDE WC is that **we don't need it at all, and we should spend allocated money for other projects if possible.**

Marko

Yochanan Afek:

The main idea I can think of is that our committee in collaboration with Fide will make a serious effort **to resume the fine tradition of the Olympic tourneys** (sadly not seen in recent Olympiads) at least in 2 free theme orthodox genres and with special sub-sections for newcomers. **I could be part of organizing and publicizing such a project** that might help to promote chess composition within the general chess public.

Yochanan

Klaus Wenda

Generally I am in favour to give the promotion of young problemists absolute priority.

They are our future! I see the example of Joachim. The days in Jurmala and his success in the Youth T. have given him inspiration and encouragement.

1. Do we need the FIDE World Cup in the same format and with the same budget as before?

No.

2. Having in mind lack of volunteers (directors and judges), would it be better to have WC:

a) every second year?

Yes.

b) yearly, but covering half of the genres (4) each year?

c) yearly, covering 6 genres, but changing the types of genres in the last four sections?

(For instance, one year with #2, #3, S#2-3, h#2-3, helpselfmates, and proof-games, and next year: #n, endgames, S#n, h#n, other fairies and classic retro)

3. What part of the FIDE yearly support should be spent on the World Cup and on what expenses that money should be distributed?

4. Would you be ready to personally support your proposal by taking over the roles of World Cup Director (selecting judges, communicating with them, creating final awards)? Or in some other way?

No. (due to my age)

5. Could you suggest somebody else willing to take the role of WC Director?

No. (Joachim is too engaged with his studies)

Klaus

Harry Fougiaxis:

My chess commitments for 2024 and 2025 are already too many (I have to judge Problem Paradise 2024, The Problemist 2024, Sachova skladba 2024, FRME 2025, WCCI and I am director in the coming album), so I don't have time to contribute to the Cup.

I discussed with Prentos and Argirakopoulos if they would be interested in the director's post, but they declined. **Kostas mentioned that he would prefer we keep the same format in terms of sections, etc. I agree with Prentos's opinion.**

Harry

Joaquim Crusats

I forwarded all your questions to the Spanish problemists, but unfortunately, I haven't received much feedback. It seems that no one feels qualified or has the time to take on the tasks at hand.

The general consensus is to align with the main perspective among the other participants. I regret that I can't provide a more positive outcome.

Joaquim

WFCC: Proposal for the suspension of the delegate for Russia

Dear delegates and honorary members

Those among us who attended the final meeting of the delegates at the WCCC in Jurmala had to listen to an appalling statement by the Russian delegate which trivialized the barbarian actions committed by the Russian forces in Ukraine. I am one of the senior delegates of the WFCC (and formerly PCCC), but this statement was by far the worst moment that I have experienced in all this time.

Over the years, there have always been differences of opinion among the delegates. But even if the discussions were heated at times, we have managed to maintain a minimum of respect and decency. After all, we are all concerned with the welfare of chess composition.

Not this time, though!

I can understand that we were all shocked to the point that nobody was able to find an appropriate response to this statement during the meeting in Jurmala. But I would consider it an unforgivable mistake if we were to simply continue with our agenda as if this statement had never been made. Such an approach would have to be understood as our silent agreement, an impression which we must avoid.

In all our meetings held since Russia started the war in Ukraine, the WFCC delegates had to deal with a proposal by Ukraine to expel Russia and Belarus from our Federation. I have always opined against these

proposals, assuming that most Russian problemists, with their international connections, have a different, more informed view of the world than the majorities of Russians who apparently still support their dictator.

After the mentioned statement, however, I would consider it a disaster to have this particular Russian delegate at our physical or virtual conference tables again. Having seen how many of us left the conference room in protest during his statement, I assume that I am not alone with my opinion.

I hereby ask the Presidium to take appropriate action now: suspend Russia from their participation in the meetings of WFCC delegates and in WFCC committees until they replace their delegate with a person with minimal human traits such as respect, and regard for human life. If Russia should fail to do so, proceed with the expulsion of Russia at our Ordinary Meeting at next year's WCCC according to Annex II of our Statutes; I sincerely hope that this last measure won't be necessary.

Bern, October 2024

Thomas Maeder

WFCC delegate for Switzerland

Georgy Evseev, Jurmala WCCC 02.08.2024:

"Frankly speaking, last year in Batumi I expected that someone, at least any person, would come to me and will ask what Russia thinks about the situation, why is it happening, are there any opinions, reasons or something like this. No one. No one has done it. So I think our proposal (to host WCCC 2025) is made in a good sense and is based on WFCC Statutes. We have Article 2 which requires for dissemination of chess composition, not for building the barriers, preventing interaction and making the opponents. So, as far as I see, your opinions are based on your media information and are very limited.

The fact is that there was quite a lot of fake information from Ukraine which very much increases and oversizes the real problems in Ukraine. In Ukraine, the shops are working, the resorts are working, the cities look normal, not like in Iraq, not like in Syria, they look quite normal. The most fighting has taken place on the line of conflict currently. So there are many videos from Ukrainian people from different cities which look quite normal.

So, really, there is no threat for local people in Ukraine who are not on the line of fight. Ukraine, at the same time, attacks Russian-boundary cities and villages, and very much attacks on civilian infrastructure near the line of conflict. I don't want to talk about it in detail, but anyway, this is what I wanted to say. There is a good possibility for the people to see it with their own eyes. This year I visited Italy and Germany without any problems. I went one side through Baku and backwards through Istanbul. I would say that Italian people, which I've seen there, were generally very positive. They don't have this kind of presumption against Russia or something like this. So, I understand this position of the delegates, but I think that it is very much biased and I would ask you to think it over again."

The statement of the Presidium on the matter:

After having analysed the facts and ideas presented in the letter received on 16 October 2024 from Mr. Thomas Maeder, delegate of Switzerland at WFCC, we, the Presidium of WFCC, are making the following statement:

On 2 August 2024, at the final meeting of WFCC Congress in Jurmala, Mr. Georgy Evseev, in his capacity as Russia's delegate at WFCC, had to sustain his country's offer for organizing the WFCC Congress in 2025. In his speech held by zoom, Mr. Evseev used some political arguments (in the line of his country's position), which determined several delegates to leave the hall, in protest. In his letter, Mr. Maeder is accusing Mr Evseev, for having „trivialized the barbarian actions committed by the Russian forces in Ukraine” and is asking us „to suspend Russia from their participation in the meetings of WFCC delegates and in WFCC committees until they replace their delegate with a person with minimal human traits such as respect, and regard for human life”.

We have taken note of these above and we consider that the emotional approaches, which are leading to political attitudes (implicit or expressed explicitly), are undesirable in our Federation. At the same time, our attributions as Presidium are functioning only in the context of chapter 9.3 of the Statutes, so any harsher measures taken can be regarded as an abuse of power.

Therefore:

1. We recommend to Mr. Evseev to reconsider his attitude shown at the last WFCC Congress and to put it into accord with his quality of WFCC Honorary Member.

2. We ask the WCCT Committee to schedule an online internal meeting, led by one of its members, preferably Mr. Harry Fougiaxis, Honorary President of WFCC. This meeting has to discuss the compatibility of Mr. Evseev with the position of spokesman of WCCT Committee, keeping in regard that he is representing (with political positions assumed) a country suspended from WCCT, all on the background of an obvious inactivity of this Committee. The Presidium will not interfere, neither in the debate nor in the decision, because WFCC Committees are independent in the matter of electing their spokesmen.

3. We shall put on the agenda of the WFCC online meeting on 25th October 2024 the proposals made by Mr. Maeder.

Our hope is that rationality will remain the ruler of our chess field and reciprocal tolerance will be the permanent line of conduct, reasons for which we invite all the members to do their best in order to preserve WFCC's image and their own prestige.

22nd October 2024

Marjan Kovačević, WFCC President

Abdulla Ali Aal Barkat, 1st Vice-President

Vidmantas Satkus, 2nd Vice-President

Dinu-Ioan Nicula, 3rd Vice-President