

**THE ECU PRESIDENT SILVIO DANAILOV AND THE  
BULGARIAN MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORT MARIANA  
GEORGIEVA ANNOUNCE THE EIWCC IN PLOVDIV,  
BULGARIA - 05-18 July, 2014**



During his visit to Bulgaria the President of the European Chess Union, Silvio Danailov, met with the Minister of Youth and Sport, Professor Mariana Georgieva. They discussed the upcoming European Individual Women's Chess Championship, which will be held in Plovdiv/Bulgaria, 5-18 July, 2014.

President Danailov and Minister Georgieva talked about the importance of chess in Bulgaria and about the big opportunity and honor to host such a big event in Bulgaria. Mr. Danailov informed the Minister about the development of the ECU program "Chess in school" in Europe.

Professor Georgieva agreed with the ECU President, that "Practicing chess in the schools develops thinking and therefore it would be a prerequisite for facilitating the learning process". She gave her full support for the development of the project in Bulgaria.



Bulgarian Minister of Youth and Sport Mrs. Georgieva expressed her willingness to provide full assistance in order to help the popularization of chess in Bulgaria.

Mrs. Georgieva showed particular interest in the upcoming performance of Bulgarian Grandmaster and former World Champion Veselin Topalov at the Candidates tournament in Khanty-Mansiysk in March 2014, and expressed a hope for Bulgaria to get the World Champion in chess again.

Official website: [www.ecuonline.net](http://www.ecuonline.net)



## PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CLUB CUP - BILBAO 2014 AND THE GRAND SLAM MASTERS FINAL



The European Club Cup 2014 and The Grand Slam Masters Final was presented during the Tata Steel Chess Tournament'2014 in Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands, by the ECU President Silvio Danailov, Mr. Leontxo Garcia, well-known journalist and representative of the organizing committee of both tournaments and Mr. Kepa Olabarrieta,

the representative from the promoting institutional organization Be Basque.



The tournaments first were presented during an official dinner, where was present also the Mayor of Beverwijk, Mr. Han van Leeuwen. On the next day the presentation was held in the press room of Tata Steel Chess Tournament.

The European Club Cup and The Grand Slam Masters Final will be held simultaneously on September 12-21, 2014 in Bilbao, Spain.

For more information, please visit the official website of the events: <http://www.bilbaomastersfinal.com>.

The 76<sup>th</sup> edition of Tata Steel Chess Tournament was held on January 10-26, 2014. Winner became Levon Aronian (ARM, ELO - 2812), finishing with 8 points out of 11. Second was Anish Giri (NED, ELO - 2734) with 6.5/11 and better tie-break than the third in the final ranking Sergey Karjakin (RUS, ELO - 2759) - 6.5/11.

## Final Ranking

Rk	Name	Rtg	Pts	TB1
1.	Levon Aronian	2812	8	43
2.	Anish Giri	2734	6.5	34.25
3.	Sergey Karjakin	2759	6.5	31
4.	Fabiano Caruana	2782	6	31
5.	Leinier Dominguez	2754	6	31
6.	Wesley So	2719	6	29.5
7.	Pentala Harikrishna	2706	5.5	30.25
8.	Loek Van Wely	2672	5	27.25
9.	Hikaru Nakamura	2789	5	24.75
10.	Boris Gelfand	2777	4.5	25
11.	Richard Rapport	2691	3.5	19.75
12.	Arkadij Naiditsch	2718	3.5	17.75

Official website: [www.tatasteelchess.com](http://www.tatasteelchess.com)

## THE ECF PRESIDENT ANDREW PAULSON AND HIGH LEVEL FIDE OFFICIALS SUSPECTED FOR CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND DUBIOUS DEALS, ACCORDING TO THE SUNDAY TIMES AND CHESSVIBES

Because of the great interest in the subject and its great importance for the world chess community we publish the full text of the two articles with the official answer of FIDE!!!

### CHESSVIBES: Leaked Agreement Between Ilyumzhinov & Paulson Suggests Conflict of Interest



Chess.com has obtained a document that suggests that Agon, Andrew Paulson's company that holds the rights to organize chess events in the World Championship cycle, is secretly run by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov himself. According to the contract, which is signed by both the FIDE President and Mr Paulson, it is Mr Ilyumzhinov who owns 51% of the shares.

Both Mr Ilyumzhinov and Mr Paulson deny that the contract is in effect, but according to Malcolm Pein, Mr Paulson “has said on at least two occasions that Kirsan is the majority shareholder.”

Note: Chess.com can neither confirm nor deny that the “logistics” and “operating procedures” listed in the contract below have been in practice for the last couple

years. However, it has been confirmed by Andrew Paulson, among other sources, that the documents are valid (meaning they exist). Whereas one source (Mr Pein) told Chess.com that Mr Paulson stated the opposite in at least two conversations, it should be noted that the contract is currently being claimed (by Mr. Paulson among other FIDE representatives) as an “early draft” of the possible agreement between FIDE and Agon - and not something that has been in place.

## Agon

About two years ago Andrew Paulson (55), a successful American entrepreneur working in Russia, entered the chess scene. His company Agon obtained the rights to organize, for the next 11 years, all events in the World Championship cycle: Grand Prix, World Cups, Candidates Tournaments and World Championship matches. It seemed that, even though he had zero experience in chess, he was willing to invest a lot of money in the royal game.

In March 2012 ambitious plans were revealed. A 4-year schedule for two World Championship cycles was announced, with Grand Prix events planned for 2013 to be held in Lisbon, Madrid, Berlin and Paris. “In the future we will be progressing continent by continent, bringing great competitions to the world’s capitals in a regular and predictable schedule,” said Mr Paulson back then.

The first tournament organized by Agon was the first Grand Prix in the 2012-2013 cycle, held in London in September 2012. Mr Paulson was not involved in the next two Grand Prix, but he did organize the London Candidates’ Tournament in March 2013. After that, the chess world didn't hear much from Agon. The company had no presence at subsequent Grand Prix, the Tromsø World Cup nor the Chennai World Championship match.

All this seemed to be a money issue. Mr Paulson has stated that he used personal money for the London Grand Prix, while the London Candidates’ were paid by The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). Around that time it became clear that Agon had not paid FIDE the agreed deposit fee of \$500,000 which was due for April 2012. Agon still hasn't paid this fee as of today.

## Leaked contract

Chess.com obtained scans of a contract, stipulated in Russian, concerning Agon. The undated contract, which mentions a “model for cooperation” between Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and Andrew Paulson and which was written on paper with Agon's letterhead, was created in January 2012. And, it has the signatures of both Mr Ilyumzhinov and Mr Paulson.



# AGON

## МЕМОРАНДУМ

Уважаемый Кирсан Николаевич!

В соответствии с Вашим предложением, мы подготовили модель сотрудничества на Ваше рассмотрение. Уверены, что это сотрудничество будет долгосрочным и взаимовыгодным, и станет большим успехом для развития шахмат.

### 1. ДЕЛОВАЯ МОДЕЛЬ

Agon, по согласованному контракту с ФИДЕ, (1) занимается продажей спонсорских пакетов ФИДЕ и (2) занимается маркетингом мероприятий ФИДЕ в рамках чемпионского цикла и (3) занимается организацией мероприятий чемпионского цикла (Гранд-при, кандидатские матчи, чемпионские матчи), включая оплату призового фонда и всех расходов, согласно контракту с ФИДЕ. Прибыль, остающаяся от операционной деятельности, поступает в распоряжение Agon и распространяется среди владельцев в качестве дивидендов. Руководителем компании является Andrew Paulson.

Контроль совета акционеров (стратегические вопросы) – К.Н.Илюмжинов;  
Контроль совета директоров (оперативное управление компанией) – Эндрю Полсон.

### 2. ФИНАНСОВАЯ МОДЕЛЬ

На первые два года работы Agon необходимо до 3 млн. долларов. Деньги должны пойти на организацию первого цикла мероприятий и инвестиции в бренд шахмат. Однако, мы рассчитываем, что сумма начальных инвестиций будет меньше в силу успеха продажи спонсорства. Предлагается следующая модель:

#### Год 1:

- КНИ выдает кредит Agon на сумму 2 млн. долларов. Первый платеж (\$500,000) производится 15 февраля 2012 года. Второй платеж (\$1,500,000) производится 15 марта 2012 года.
- Кредит является **возвращаемым**, то есть до распространения дивидендов, компания обязана вернуть кредит, никто не получает прибыли, пока кредит не возвращен инвестору. Кредитор получает "интерес" в размере LIBOR + 1%.
- Инвестор имеет полный контрольный контроль мажоритарного акционера;
- \$500,000 из второго платежа будет немедленно по получению на счет AGON передано ФИДЕ как гарантия призовых выплат для согласованных мероприятий. Гарантия может быть возвращена в АГОН, если это будет согласовано Интерфейсом.

#### Год 2:

- В случае необходимости, в рамках решения совета Директоров, К.Н.Илюмжинов выдает Agon второй транш кредита в размере до \$1 млн. на тех же условиях, что и первый.
- Платеж (\$1,000,000) производится 15 марта 2013 года.

\* В случае, если сторона К.Н.Илюмжинова не производит платеж согласно расписанию, согласованному данным Меморандумом, доля К.Н.Илюмжинова в Agon автоматически снижается до 20%. Трей-период платежей составляет 10 рабочих дней.

97 Whitehall Court London England SW1A 2EL

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### 3. МОДЕЛЬ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ

ГОЛОСУЮЩИЕ АКЦИИ (контроль над компанией)

51% -- К.Н.Илюмжинов  
49% -- Andrew Paulson

Также, вводятся не-голосующие акции (которые имеют право на дивиденды). Данные акции вводятся по соглашению владельцев и могут быть направлены ключевым сотрудникам компании. Не-голосующие акции выходят из пакетов основных владельцев в пропорции (50-50).

Руководитель проекта Эндрю Полсон обязуется работать в компании на полной занятости на время действия контракта с ФИДЕ (11 лет).

Дополнительные контролирующие механизмы, взаимные права и обязанности акционеров (миноритарных и мажоритарных) будут включены в Shareholders Agreement, который будет представлен 27 января 2012 года.

Не-голосующие акции:

10% - Илья Мерензон  
5% - Берик Балгабаев

### 4. ЗАРПЛАТЫ И КООРДИНАЦИЯ С ДРУГИМИ КОМПАНИЯМИ В РАМКАХ ФИДЕ

a) Global Chess является подрядчиком по проведению мероприятий Agon (Geoffrey Borg подтвердил готовность и заинтересованность). Global Chess получает около \$15,000 за каждое мероприятие из бюджета Agon в соответствии с контрактом ФИДЕ.

b) Макрополус является консультантом Agon с зарплатой 75,000 евро в первый год и 150,000 евро во все последующие (на время действия контракта с ФИДЕ). Зарплата увеличивается на 5% каждый год после второго года.

a) Берик Балгабаев является консультантом Agon с зарплатой 36,000 евро в первый год и 60,000 евро во все последующие (на время действия контракта с ФИДЕ). Зарплата увеличивается на 5% каждый год после второго года.

г) Эндрю Полсон является президентом (директором) Agon, его зарплата составляет 240,000 евро в год. Зарплата увеличивается на 5% каждый год после второго года.

\*\*\*

Мы надеемся, что Вы найдете эту схему приемлемой. Мы крайне заинтересованы в работе с ФИДЕ, продавали большую работу и достигли договоренности с ключевыми подрядчиками. Мы готовы обсуждать другие приемлемые варианты, включая начальную модель, в которой все инвестиции и финансовые риски ложатся на нашу сторону.

С уважением,

Эндрю Полсон

97 Whitehall Court London England SW1A 2EL

The contract (translated into English in [this Word doc](#)) mentions Agon's responsibilities:

- sell FIDE's sponsor packages;
- perform marketing activities for FIDE enterprises concerning the world championship;
- organize the running of the world championship cycle events, including the payment of the prize fund and all expenses, in accordance with the contract with FIDE.

It is stated that profits from these activities would be at the disposal of Agon and for distribution to its shareholders by way of dividends. The manager of the company would be Andrew Paulson, who would own 49% of the voting shares, while Kirsan Ilyumzhinov would have control of the board of shareholders and would own 51% of the voting shares. Mr Ilyumzhinov would provide the company with its start-up capital in return for a share of the profits.

#### Beneficiaries

The contract mentions more beneficiaries. It states that Global Chess, run by FIDE's Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Borg, will be the contractor for running Agon's events. Global Chess would receive about \$15,000 for each event, from Agon's budget, in accordance with the contract with FIDE. FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos would be a consultant to Agon, receiving EUR 75,000 in the first year, and EUR 150,000 in each subsequent year of the FIDE contract. Mr Ilyumzhinov's assistant Berik Balgabaev would be consultant to Agon, receiving EUR 36,000 in the first year, and EUR 60,000 in each subsequent year of the FIDE contract. Andrew Paulson himself would be paid EUR 240,000 per year. All of these payments would be increased by 5% in each year after the second.

#### Audits

The audited accounts for Agon, which is based on the Island of Jersey, are reported only to two external individuals. In the official agreement between Agon and FIDE as published on the FIDE website (in PDF here) it is written that an "Interface" is established to resolve issues. The Interface consists of four members of which two are "Agon members" and two are "FIDE members" - Mr Nigel Freeman and Mr Georgios Makropoulos. There seems to be no external auditing taking place, and the delegates of the 180 federations do not seem to have direct access to or insight in the funds received by Agon.

Mr Paulson wrote in an email: "The fact that the audits of Agon, a private company, are shown to (only) Makropoulos and Freeman at all is unusual. Companies don't usually show their accounts to anyone other than shareholders and the taxman. However, in this case, under the Agreement, FIDE needs to be able to verify the revenue (because payments to FIDE are based on it) while Agon needs to maintain a reasonable level of confidentiality vis-a-vis its other counter-parties; we solved this issue by allowing representatives of FIDE, bound by confidentiality, to audit our accounts. The contract is publicly available, was approved by the Presidential Board and ratified by the General Assembly of FIDE. This is a non-issue."

"Draft, never used"

Both Mr Paulson and Mr Ilyumzhinov denied to Chess.com that the contract is in effect. According to Mr Paulson it was cancelled "immediately, the next day or so." In an email he wrote: "There were several models that we explored over many iterations while establishing the shareholder structure of Agon after the FIDE/Agon contract had been negotiated. I am the sole owner of AGON and the sole shareholder."

In a later email he added: "To the extent that the Memorandum was a draft, some of the terms were indeed carried forward in some form and some were abandoned. For example, in the end, Agon did engage Global Chess as a general contractor for event management, but for \$7,500/month instead of \$15,000/event. This restructuring was deemed logical, as there were 6 events in the 2013 schedule. Mr. Makropoulos, on the other hand, rejected out of hand the idea of consultants related in any way to FIDE receiving retainers. And, indeed, under a separate agreement my salary from AGON was agreed to be EUR 240k/year, but I never took it."

Like Mr Paulson, FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos refrained from speaking on the phone. Instead, he replied to Chess.com by copying an email he also sent to other media. On behalf of FIDE and its President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, Mr Makropoulos wrote: "Before anything else, let me strongly clarify that I was never a consultant of Agon and I have never received even 1 cent from Agon. (...) "It was never in effect because it was just one of the many proposals of Andrew which were rejected. (...) It was understood by all sides that neither FIDE nor Kirsan could be involved as shareholders of Agon and that no FIDE official could be hired by Agon as there is an obvious conflict of interest."

Malcolm Pein

Although Mr Ilyumzhinov and Mr Paulson both state that their agreement was "just an early draft", it was signed by both parties, as can be seen in the image of the

scanned document. On top of that, Malcolm Pein, tournament director of the London Chess Classic and Chief Executive of Chess in Schools and Communities, told Chess.com: "Andrew told me on at least on two occasions that Kirsan is the majority shareholder." The last time was "shortly before the ECF elections", said Mr Pein. This was in October 2013.

### Implications

If indeed the document obtained by Chess.com proves to be accurate and does represent the true relations between FIDE and Agon and what have been the operating procedures, this would suggest a serious conflict of interest. And since it was signed by both Mr Ilyumzhinov and Mr Paulson, at least at a certain point the two intended to go and work with an agreement that involves making money from World Championship cycle events via an off-shore company in Jersey. Agon would receive large sums of money from Grand Prix, World Cups, Candidates Tournaments and World Championship matches, and its beneficiaries would all be connected to FIDE itself. As the majority share holder, Mr Ilyumzhunov would be using the crown jewels of chess to his own benefit.

The document obtained by Chess.com seems to answer several questions raised in the past. To start, it seems clear now why FIDE still hasn't terminated its contract with Agon yet, despite not receiving the half a million deposit fee. At the second-quarter Presidential Board meeting, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 4-7 May 2013, the question was asked that to do with this Agon debt. There and then, it was Mr. Makropoulos who proposed to authorize the FIDE President "to take the personal decision as to whether to terminate the contract with Agon." The proposal was accepted.

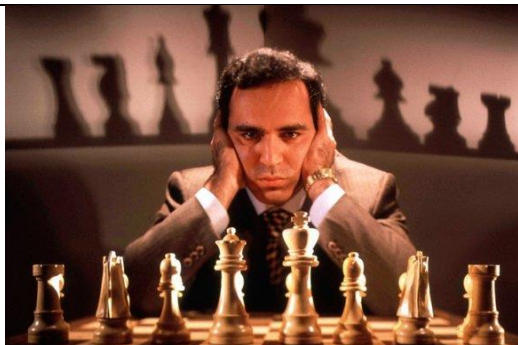
The document also seems to explain a statement by Andrew Paulson from an interview with ChessVibes in March 2013. Back then Mr Paulson said that FIDE's Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Borg "[had] been an employee of Agon since January 2012." Soon after the publication of the interview Mr Paulson, on behalf of Mr Borg, requested to correct "employee" to "advisor". As it turns out, Mr Borg has been working for Agon as a "contractor for event management".

On Wednesday night Chess.com asked Mr Makropoulos about the signatures on the agreement; Mr Paulson was sent a copy of the email. At the time of publishing this article, neither one has responded to this question.

The original article: <http://www.chessvibes.com/leaked-agreement-between-ilymzhinov-paulson-suggests-conflict-of-interest>



## THE SUNDAY TIMES: Clash of kings as bid to sex up chess gets dirty



*Garry Kasparov (Ted Thai//Time Life Pictures)*

**This is the full article, published in The Sunday Times!!!**

HE HAS played out some of the most epic clashes in chess, but now the former grandmaster Garry Kasparov is facing perhaps his greatest challenge as he seeks to gain control of the sport he once dominated.

His opponent this time is not his fellow Russian chess genius Anatoly Karpov but Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, former president of a Russian republic, who believes chess was invented by extraterrestrials.

Their battle for the presidency of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) reads like the plot of an espionage novel with secret memoranda, multimillion-pound deals and even an appearance by Vladimir Putin, the Russian president.

At the centre of the clash is the unlikely figure of Andrew Paulson, the American head of the English Chess Federation, and the man who was once seen as the game's kingmaker.

Initially Paulson was brought in by Ilyumzhinov to broaden chess's appeal and in doing so turn it into a money-making machine.

Now Paulson has found himself trapped between the two rival camps.

Kasparov claims documents leaked to him show that Paulson and Ilyumzhinov were negotiating a deal in which Ilyumzhinov would fund the company secretly run by Ilyumzhinov, which controls the rights to run chess tournaments around the world.

Ilyumzhinov would have a majority share in it while Paulson would be its public face and ostensibly its sole owner.

Ilyumzhinov is a colourful and controversial figure who is loathed by many in the chess world. Until 2010 he was president of Kalmykia, where he ruled with Kremlin support.

"I am creating around the republic a kind of extrasensory field and it helps us a lot in our projects," he once said.

After ceasing to run Kalmykia, running chess was his consolation prize. When the Russian Chess Federation tried to back Karpov as candidate in 2010, the Kremlin sent security men to persuade it otherwise. Two of Ilyumzhinov's aides were convicted of murdering a journalist in 1998.

Supporters of Kasparov argue that Ilyumzhinov, who believes he was abducted by aliens in yellow suits and taken to their spaceship, cannot attract the kind of corporate backing that chess needs to grow.

In the memorandum seen by The Sunday Times, Paulson offered Ilyumzhinov a 51% stake in a company that was subsequently awarded an 11-year contract to promote chess and organise its top tournaments. The document, typed in Russian and initialled by Paulson and Ilyumzhinov, further stated that in return for a share of the profits from events and sponsorship Ilyumzhinov would provide the company with its start-up capital.

Paulson asked for a salary of €240,000 (£198,000) a year.

The company was founded a few weeks later but by this time the terms of the deal appear to have changed.

Paulson said the agreement had been an early proposal and that he was the firm's sole shareholder.

Ilyumzhinov did not respond to questions. Georgios Makropoulos, Ilyumzhinov's deputy at FIDE, said on his behalf: "Kirsan finally decided not to be involved in the ownership of Agon, although he loves to support chess and has spent millions of dollars to encourage similar projects without receiving anything back."

In a move worthy of any grandmaster, when Paulson was asked about the secret memorandum by The Sunday Times, he circulated another document – this time about Kasparov. The player, who became the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion in 1985 at the age of 22, is an outspoken critic of Putin, Ilyumzhinov's ally.

The document that Paulson circulated appeared to show that Kasparov had offered Ignatius Leong, general secretary of FIDE and a supporter of Ilyumzhinov, \$500,000 (£303,000) to switch sides.

According to the document, Kasparov promised Leong, who lives in Singapore, an office for him to run. He also said that if he was elected, the Kasparov Chess Foundation would pay \$1m over four years to the Asean Chess Academy, a teaching organisation owned by Leong.

"This is only shocking for those who thought Garry was in some way better than Kirsan [Illyumzhinov]," said Paulson in his covering note.

Kasparov's lawyer said that the document was authentic but had been superseded by a contract in which all money would go to chess development and none to individuals. The hostilities come at a promising moment for chess as a new world champion, Magnus Carlsen from Norway, brings a sexier image to the sport. At 23, Carlsen has also been a fashion model for G-Star Raw, a clothing brand popular with students.

Some players are in despair at the way chess is run. The audited accounts for Paulson's company Agon, which is based in Jersey, are reported only to two external individuals, Makropoulos and Nigel Freeman, its treasurer. Delegates from the 177 countries that rely on FIDE for chess funds chess have no access to the accounts.

A chastened Paulson declared: "I want them both to be disqualified [from the election]. "That's my strategy."

The original article: <http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/article1367717.ece>

#### **THE OFFICIAL ANSWER OF FIDE: The truth about the FIDE-AGON contract**



31 January 2014

To: All National Chess Federations, Chess Media

Dear chess friends,

During the last days there has been an orchestrated attack to the FIDE President and FIDE officials concerning the FIDE/AGON contract.

Although the truth is very well known among the chess family, it is only after the recent contract between Garry Kasparov and Ignatius Leong, involving the purchase of promised votes from national chess federations, that this issue has surfaced again through certain Kasparov-friendly websites and twitter accounts.

The most recent example is Peter Doggers, a writer for websites chess.com and chessvibes.com, who continues to present an initial memorandum proposed by Andrew Paulson as a "contract" between FIDE and AGON. Although it has been explained to Mr Doggers that this is not a contract but only one of many proposals submitted by Andrew Paulson during negotiations, Mr Doggers still published an

article here (<http://www.chess.com/news/deal-between-paulson--ilymzhinov-revealed-in-yet-another-leaked-document-6252>), twisting the real facts and not publishing the whole reply of Mr Makropoulos but only some parts of it, as obviously Mr Doggers tries to hide the reality from his readers.

For the sake of correct journalist principles, and because this concerns important FIDE business, FIDE publishes here the full reply of Deputy President Mr Makropoulos from which anyone can understand why Mr Doggers, clearly on a mission, refrained from publishing the whole of it. We expect from Mr Doggers to correct his moral mistake, avoid further censorship on statements made by FIDE officials and inform his readers with the full reply of Mr Makropoulos.

The full text of the material: <http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/1-fide-news/7713-the-truth-about-the-fide-agon-contract.html>

## 6TH INTERNATIONAL DRUSKININKAI CHESS CONGRESS



Trainers' seminar for FIDE Trainers' Titles was held in Druskininkai/Lithuania, 17-19 January, as an important part of the 6th International Druskininkai Chess Congress. It was organised by Sport and Art Club "Juoda Balta", FIDE Trainers Commission and IO Jonas Sidabras.

About 200 participants from Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Latvia and Germany took part in different events of the Congress.



Blitz tournament "Dainava" with 98 players was won by IM Vaidas Sakalauskas (Lithuania). "Druskininkai Rapid Open" was won by GM Ilmars Starostits (Latvia). 87 young players were competing in the Youth "Aquapark Open", and a girl became the winner: Marija Sibajeva from Lithuania.





The lecturer of the Trainers' seminar for FIDE Trainers' Titles was Grandmaster and FST Igor Glek (Germany). Among the participants of the seminar strong titled players were present, as well as the experienced chess trainers. Photos by Ignas Sidabras and Jonas Sidabras [www.ecuonline.net](http://www.ecuonline.net)

## FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

### EUROPEAN SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 - KAVALA IS WAITING FOR YOU!



The beautiful seaside city Kavala, located in the northern Greece will host the European School Chess Championship for 2014.

The event will take place from 13 to 27 June, 2014, in the City Conference Hall.

The Championship will be held in 12 age groups: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, Boys and Girls separately.

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds. The rate of play will be 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment per move starting from move one.

For more information or any questions you can contact the Organising Committee:

Mrs Lena Oustampasidou - Tournament Secretariat, tel: (+30) 6974605518 , Fax: (+30) 2641500112, e-mail: [ecuschool2014@gmail.com](mailto:ecuschool2014@gmail.com)

More information can be found here: <http://www.ecuonline.net/com/news/single/586.html>

See you in Kavala this summer!

## INTERVIEW OF THE ECU PRESIDENT FOR CHESS-NEWS.RU



During his stay at Tata Steel Chess Tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the President of the European Chess Union, Silvio Danailov, gave interview for Chess-News.ru.

With the journalist Evgeniy Surov they discussed about many interesting topics, concerning the European championships, ECU "Chess in school" program, forthcoming ECU elections,

high level chess management and others.

You could read the full article in Russian language here: <http://chess-news.ru/node/14528>

### TOP 50 PLAYERS - FEBRUARY 2014

Rk.	Name	Title	Country	Rating	Games	B-Year
1	Carlsen, Magnus	g	NOR	2872	0	1990
2	Aronian, Levon	g	ARM	2826	11	1982
3	Kramnik, Vladimir	g	RUS	2787	0	1975
4	Topalov, Veselin	g	BUL	2785	0	1975
5	Caruana, Fabiano	g	ITA	2781	11	1992
6	Grischuk, Alexander	g	RUS	2777	0	1983
7	Nakamura, Hikaru	g	USA	2776	11	1987
8	Anand, Viswanathan	g	IND	2773	0	1969
9	Karjakin, Sergey	g	RUS	2766	11	1990
10	Gelfand, Boris	g	ISR	2761	11	1968
11	Svidler, Peter	g	RUS	2758	0	1976
12	Dominguez Perez, Leinier	g	CUB	2757	11	1983

13	Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar	g	AZE	2757	0	1985
14	Adams, Michael	g	ENG	2754	0	1971
15	Giri, Anish	g	NED	2746	11	1994
16	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime	g	FRA	2745	0	1990
17	Ivanchuk, Vassily	g	UKR	2739	0	1969
18	So, Wesley	g	PHI	2738	17	1993
19	Bacrot, Etienne	g	FRA	2738	0	1983
20	Vitiugov, Nikita	g	RUS	2737	0	1987
21	Wang, Hao	g	CHN	2734	0	1989
22	Eljanov, Pavel	g	UKR	2733	0	1983
23	Nepomniachtchi, Ian	g	RUS	2732	0	1990
24	Leko, Peter	g	HUN	2730	0	1979
25	Jakovenko, Dmitry	g	RUS	2723	1	1983
26	Korobov, Anton	g	UKR	2723	0	1985
27	Morozevich, Alexander	g	RUS	2722	0	1977
28	Ponomariov, Ruslan	g	UKR	2721	0	1983
29	Ding, Liren	g	CHN	2717	0	1992
30	Malakhov, Vladimir	g	RUS	2717	0	1980
31	Wang, Yue	g	CHN	2717	0	1987
32	Wojtaszek, Radoslaw	g	POL	2715	27	1987
33	Tomashevsky, Evgeny	g	RUS	2715	0	1987
34	Radjabov, Teimour	g	AZE	2713	0	1987
35	Harikrishna, P.	g	IND	2712	11	1986
36	Shirov, Alexei	g	LAT	2711	0	1972
37	Moiseenko, Alexander	g	UKR	2710	0	1980
38	Le, Quang Liem	g	VIE	2709	6	1991

39	Andreikin, Dmitry	g	RUS	2709	0	1990
40	Fressinet, Laurent	g	FRA	2709	0	1981
41	Kamsky, Gata	g	USA	2709	0	1974
42	Almasi, Zoltan	g	HUN	2707	2	1976
43	Vallejo Pons, Francisco	g	ESP	2707	0	1982
44	Jobava, Baadur	g	GEO	2706	13	1983
45	Areshchenko, Alexander	g	UKR	2706	0	1986
46	Rublevsky, Sergei	g	RUS	2706	0	1974
47	Kryvoruchko, Yuriy	g	UKR	2704	0	1986
48	Naiditsch, Arkadij	g	GER	2702	11	1985
49	Navara, David	g	CZE	2702	0	1985
50	Bu, Xiangzhi	g	CHN	2699	0	1985

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