



SPANISH PARLIAMENT  
VOTES FOR THE  
INCLUSION OF CHESS  
IN SCHOOLS



EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2015



TURKISH CHESS  
FEDERATION  
STANDS UP FOR  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS



RUSSIAN CHESS  
MUSEUM  
CHESS BOARDS  
COLLECTION

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



## EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 STARTED

The European Individual Chess Championship was opened on Monday evening, in a highly entertaining ceremony held in Ramada hotel in Jerusalem. Some prominent friends and supporters of Israeli chess were present, notably chairman of the finances committee of the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) MP Nisan Slomiansky who was extremely instrumental in raising the funds for the event, chairman of the national lottery general (ret.) Uzi Dayan, who is behind chess tuition projects for youngsters in the periphery, Moshe Slav, chairman of the Israeli Chess

Federation and the ECU Treasurer Martin Huba. They all warmly welcomed the participants, wishing them their stay in the Jerusalem would inspire their performance.

The main attraction of the evening was a stunning performance of mind reading presented by the world famous Lior Sushard who amazed the speechless grandmasters and other guests with a series of his magical numbers. The drummer band Jaman provided the special ethnic flavour of the successful evening. "It was the best opening since I have attended this event for the first time 14 years ago" said GM Andrei Volokitin afterwards, pretty much expressing the general opinion.

250 players from 33 countries take part in the championship. 167 of them are titled players of which 112 are Grandmasters. Six grandmasters are rated 2700+ and seven are past European champions including the current champion, the Russian Alexander Motylev. The largest federation is, as expected, the Israeli one with 101 players led by Israel's No.2 Maxim Rodshtein. The largest and the strongest guest group is Russian delegation with 42 players ahead of Ukraine with 12, Armenia and Turkey with 9 each, etc.

The highest rated players already met fairly strong opposition in the first round. While the first four seeds (Navara, Vitiugov, Eljanov and Nepomniatchi) managed to score a first full point, the remaining two 2700+ players, Spain's No.1 Vallejo-Pons and France No.2 Bacrot had to settle for a draw against former Israeli champion GM Yehuda Grunfeld and Swiss IM Richard Forster respectively.

The major upsets of the first round were the defeats of two Israel players: the current Israeli champion Victor Mikhalevski (2559) who lost against 17 years old Itay Westreich, and Evgeny Postny who lost against former Israeli champion IM Nathan Birnboim (63).

The ECU Board meeting will be held in the same venue on 6th and 7th March after the kind invitation by the Israel Chess Federation. In the agenda of the meeting is the new business plan of the ECU and the approval of commercial agreements. The Board will also discuss the action plans and the budgets of the new permanent ECU Commissions. Finally the Board will deal with the serious legal matters arisen since the extra ECU General Assembly in Batumi.

[Official Website](#)

Photos by Yoav Nis

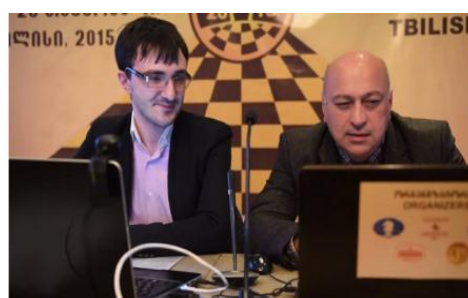


## ECU NEWS

### ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili guest of Tbilisi Grand Prix

President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili was a special guest of the FIDE Grand Prix in Tbilisi, Georgia. Mr. Azmaiparashvili made the first move in the game between Alexander Grischuk and Teimour Radjabov of the 6th round.

On the day before, the ECU President was a guest in the commentary room, giving his impressions about the games of the round 5. [Video](#)



### Chess and Education – Meeting FIDE-ECU-RSSU

On 7th February, during the Moscow Open 2015, a joint meeting between representatives of FIDE, ECU and Russian State Social University was held in the University premises.

The representatives of the European Chess Union were the ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, the ECU Educational Commission Chairman Mr. Jesper Hall and Mr. Alexander Kostyev as the ECU Educational Commission Secretary.



FIDE was represented by Vice President Mr. Boris Kutin, Mr. Kevin J. O`Connell, Chairman of FIDE Chess in Schools Commission, Mr. Ozgur Solakoglu, FIDE Events Commission Councillor and Mr. Adam Dzwonkowski FIDE Events Commission member.

RSSU was represented in the highest level by the Rector, Doctor of Economics, Mrs. Natalia Pochinok.

In the agenda of the meeting were the Chess Educational programs and events.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou informed Mrs. Pochinok that both International University Sports Federation (FISU) and European University Sport Association (EUSA) decided to include Chess in their official program and in 2015 and 2016 the European and World University Championships in Yerevan and Abu Dhabi will be held.



Mrs. Pochinok expressed the interest of the RSSU to host one of the future events and added that she will start immediately the process through the National University Sports Association.

The Chairmen, Mr. Kevin J. O`Connell and Mr. Jesper Hall proposed a number of actions in the direction of research and education through the chess faculty of RSSU.

One of the main topics of the meeting was the “Chess teacher master”, an academic project, which will be developed as a distance-learning programme. The aim of the programme is to give the opportunity mainly to the school teachers to attend the course and get a University certificate for teaching chess.

FIDE Vice President Mr. Boris Kutin expressed his full support to all these productive proposals and thanked Mrs. Pochinok for her efforts to organize the Moscow Open 2015, and her willingness to expand and enlarge the chess tournaments in programs in RSSU.

## ECU supports the Chess Boards Collection of the Russian Chess Museum

The Russian Chess Museum was opened on 25th September 2014 in the renovated halls of the historic mansion and later Botvinnik Club in Moscow, supported by the President of the Russian Chess Federation Mr. Andrey Filatov.

The location is the same mansion where the seat of the Russian Chess Federation is. The building has a long and colourful history: its owners have included aristocrats, famous merchants, collectors and philanthropists. The club is situated in the center of the city at Gogolevsky Boulevard, and it is a three-story building with a lot of room. The efforts of Botvinnik, who worked there every day in the late 80s, were among the reasons why this fantastic historical building is still held by the Russian Chess Federation and is a true home for chess players from all around the country.

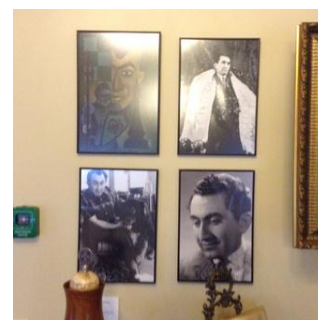
The basic collection of the new Museum includes rare chess sets of different cultures and eras. Collection consists of personal belongings of the great Grandmasters: Mikhail Chigorin, Alexander Alekhine, Mikhail Botvinnik, Tigran Petrosian: old books, posters, paintings, gifts of chess fans and celebrity guests, trophies of the Soviet and Russian Champions.



It also has on display rare chess sets of the 17th-21st centuries, including the artworks of world level, some of them the envy of the big art museums.

Masterpieces made of ivory and ebony are there, side by side with strict cardboard chess of besieged Leningrad, the bent wire made “Gulag chess”, simple chocolate-beige plastic of a space chess set: the one used for the first in the history game of the crew of «Soyuz-9” in “Space-to-Earth” chess game.

The chess table of the legendary chess match Karpov-Kasparov 1984 represents one of the most important parts of the exhibition. It includes original flags, chess pieces, scoresheets and clocks, even the envelopes for adjourned games.



Old historic trophies are standing alongside with new trophies of the 21st century. The Women’s World Chess Championship trophy, first won in 1927 by Vera Menchik and subsequently by many Soviet champions, with the latest and the most valuable one – Chess Olympiad Cup, won by Russian Women’s chess team who won gold medals in August 2014 in Tromsø, Norway.

A unique collection of rare chess exhibits and artefacts totals to more than 4,000 units of a significant cultural and historical value.

USSR Honored Trainer IM Aleksander Nikitin donated two large boxes of “debut kartoteka” – openings card index to the Chess Museum in Moscow, which also have an important place in the Museum. In the 70s, as a trainer of the Soviet national teams, Nikitin created a card index based on idea of Estonian IM Iivo Nei. The system was in use for over two decades, and now this valuable exhibit also has an important place in the Museum.

The Chess Museum’s plan is to create a worldwide collection of chess boards with national characteristics. European Chess Union supports this action and asks all the European National federation to assist in this effort in order to create a multicultural chess collection available to all museum visitors.

## European Universities Chess Championship 2015

The 1st European Universities Chess Championship will take place in Yerevan/Armenia, from 6-11 October, 2015.

The Championship is organized by the European University Sports Association, in cooperation with the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Education and Science, Armenian Student Sports Federation and Armenian Chess Federation. The event is included in the Official Calendar of the European Chess Union.



**1st EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Yerevan, October 6-11, 2015

The organizers provided full board accommodation for all participants in the BEST WESTERN Congress hotel. The hotel is situated in the heart of Yerevan within easy walking distance to City Council and Republic Square with its famous singing fountain by night.

All National University Sports Associations – NUSA (<http://www.eusa.eu/eusa/members>) can register university teams through EUSA internal system.

[Online Registration](#)



All players must be older than 17 and younger than 30 (born in the years 1985-1998). All the participants can represent only one (own) university, where they are registered as students.

General Entry first call deadline is 15th May, 2015.

EUSA Rules and Regulations are published on the official website

<http://www.eusa.eu/media/documents/eusa-events-rules-regulations>

Regulations for Chess can be found [here](#)

European University Sports Association (EUSA) and European Chess Union (ECU) decided to sign a memorandum of co-operation in March.

## Mitropa Cup 2015

Austrian Chess Federation organizes Mitropa Cup 2015, from 13-22 June, 2015 in Mayrhofen/Austria. The official venue of the tournament is Congress Zillertal.



The registration of the team composition has to be done until 30th May 2015.

Chess federations entitled to take part in the Mitropa Cup 2015 are:

Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Mitropa Cup is a team event for ten European Federations which will be held in two sections, Open section and Women section. Each team consists of four players in the open section, two women in the women's section, plus 1 reserve player.

The tournament will be played as a Round Robin one, in 9 rounds, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for each move starting from one.

Mitropa Cup is a European chess tournament, gathering especially strong young players from 10 European Federations.

[Official Website](#)

## Turkish Chess Federation stands up for women's rights

Turkish Chess Federation decided to devote the Turkish Women's Chess Championship 2015 to the 20 year-old Özgecan Aslan, a Turkish university student from Mersin, who was brutally murdered on 11th February, 2015. The incident sparked outrage in Turkey and worldwide since was connected with discrimination against women.

The President of the Turkish Chess Federation and FIDE Vice President, Mrs. Gulkiz Tulay expressed her deepest condolences to the family of the tragically deceased girl, and as a woman President expressed her wish to commemorate the Women's National Championship in the name of young Özgecan.



Mrs. Gulkiz Tulay made the statement in the federation's official website:

"As all you know few days ago Özgecan, our 20 years-old beautiful girl, sister, University student was wildly murdered in Mersin, and it made our whole country and of course our society deeply saddened. She was sent to school by her family and in waiting her return the innocent girl was killed. Her murder deeply affected all of us, all different sides of all Turkish people..."

Mrs. Tulay emphasizes that she wishes and wants violence towards women to be stopped, murderers to be punished strongly and murder of Özgecan to be the last women murder.

The Turkish Women's Chess Championship takes place in Gaziantep, 8-14 March, 2015. The tournament will be played in 9 rounds according to the Swiss system, with the time control 90 minutes for the whole game + 30 seconds increment per move.

European Chess Union expresses its sadness and solidarity to all Turkish chess friends.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

[Official address of Mrs. Tulay](#)

## ‘Chess in Schools’ Program part of school’s curriculum in Spain



The Spanish Parliament has recently voted for the inclusion of Chess in Schools program in the Spanish educational system with a unanimous decision. The next step will be for the issue to be debated by a commission from the Ministry of Education, who will have the final decision because they are made up of members from all of Spain’s autonomous communities.

Chess is already part of school’s curriculum in Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and other countries by the decision of the National or Regional Ministries of Education.



The European Chess Union congratulates the Spanish Chess Federation and its President Mr. Javier Ochoa de Echagüen Estibaliz for this great achievement.

More details at the [official website](#) of the Spanish Chess Federation.

## FUN ZONE

Four big international events took place during February – Gibraltar Tradewise, Moscow Open, Zurich Chess Challenge and Grenke Chess Classic. For February Fun Zone we have prepared interesting games from these four tournaments.

The first position shows a nice victory of Magnus Carlsen against Arkadij Naiditsch at Grenke 2015. Black’s last move was 15... Qc7. Logical respond would be for example 16. Nd5, but Carlsen wouldn’t be a World Champion if he didn’t see something else in this position. Try to find what he played.

Very interesting game from the 5<sup>th</sup> round of Gibraltar 2015 between Nakamura and Adhiban is shown on the second diagram. A very sharp line of Queen’s Gambit Accepted was played, and the game led to this position. White should have played 12. Bc4 and after Nb4 13. Nc3 Nc2 14. Ke2 Nd4 15. Qe3 the position is equal. Instead, White played 12. Nc3, and after that Black has a forced winning line. Try to find it.



The third position is from the game Sergei Chekhov vs Ernesto Inarkiev from Moscow Open 2015. Black has the upper hand in this position as White missed few good moves, but he must not waste time. How can Black continue?

The fourth position is from the game Anand vs Aronian from Zurich 2015. Anand sacrificed a piece in this position, which was the part of his preparation. Can you find what former World Champion played in the position from the diagram, and what was his idea?

### Solutions from the NL January 2014:

Grigoryan, Karen (2587) vs. Kotanijan, Tigran (2501)

75th ch-ARM 2015 | Yerevan ARM | Round 5 | 16 Jan 2015 | 1-0

26.Bf5! Qf6 27. Be4 Rb5 28. Re1 g6 29. Bxg6 Kg7 30. Qe3 1-0

Mamedov, Rauf (2642) vs. Abasov, Nijat (2530)

70th ch-AZE 2015 | Baku AZE | Round 8 | 14 Jan 2015 | 1-0

23. Nxb7 Rxd3 24. Rxd3 Rd4 25. Na5 Qc7 26. Rxd4 exd4 27. Qg3 Qd7 28. Qb8+ Nc8 29. Nc4 Qg4 30. b3 h6 31. f3 Qe6 32. f4 f5 33. Nd6 1-0

Harshkou, Mikita (2238) vs. Stupak, Kirill (2557)

81st ch-BLR 2015 | Minsk BLR | Round 5 | 16 Jan 2015 | 0-1

33...Rc8!

Melia, Salome (2473) vs. Batsiashvili, Nino (2450)

72nd ch-GEO 2015 | Tbilisi GEO | Round 5 | 15 Jan 2015 | 0-1

22. Nb4 Re5 23. Nc6 Rh5 24. Qxh5 Nxb5 25. Nxb8 Qe8 26. Bd1 Nf6 27. Na6 Qe5 28. Nb4 Nxd5 29. f4 Qe4 30. Nxd5 Qxd5 31. Bc2 b4 32. Ra4 Bc5 33. b3 Qe6 34. Bd3 Qxb3 35. Ra8+ Nf8 36. Be2 Qc2 37. Re8 b3 38. Kh1 b2 39. Bxb2 Qxb2 40. c4 Qc3 41. Kg2 Qd4 42. h4 d5 43. cxd5 Qxd5+ 44. Bf3 Qd2+ 45. Re2 Qd7 46. Rc1 Ne6 47. Rec2 Bb6 48. Rd1 Nd4 49. Ra2 Qe6 50. Ra8+ Kh7 51. Rda1 Nxf3 52. Kxf3 Qd5+ 53. Kg4 h5+ 54. Kh3 Bd4 55. R8a5 Qd7 0-1

### They told about chess...

“Whoever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one’s opponent will never become a good Chess player.”

Machgielis Max Euwe, Dutch chess Grandmaster, mathematician, the 5th World Chess Champion and President of FIDE.



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

AUREC OPEN 2015	1 March	Aurec sur Loire/France	3.000 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
VLADIMIR PETROV MEMORIAL	7 -8 March	Jurmala/Latvia	12.000 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
REYKJAVIK OPEN 2015	10 - 18 March	Reykjavik/ Iceland	15.000 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
AMIC HOTELS OPEN 2015	22 – 29 March	Palma de Mallorca/Spain	3.500 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
AEROFLOT OPEN 2015	26 March - 6 April	Moscow/Russia	120.000 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
KARPOS OPEN 2015	27 March - 3 April	Skopje/FYR Macedonia	16.000 EUR	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>