



## Report for the ECU General Assembly in Baku, Azerbaijan

Dear Delegates,

Here is brief information about our activities of the last year, since the last ECU GA in Bar, Montenegro:

**The financial results of the years 2015, the first results of the new ECU administration shows a significant increase of the annual income about a 30% and an important raise of development actions of the European Chess Union.**

European Chess Union organized the European Individual Championships 2016 in Gjakova, Kosovo\* and in Mamaia, Romania with 120,000 euros and 60,000 euros net prize fund respectively. More important is that ECU has secured the organisers and the sponsorship of the European Individual Championships Open and women till 2018.

**The funding of the European Championships is today secured two years in advance.**

The European Championships becomes more popular and more federation from all parts of Europe is bidding now for ECU events as a result of improvements, promotion and transparency in the procedure of awarding. One good example is the European Individual Senior Championship, which was organized this year in Yerevan, Armenia, next year in Barcelona, Spain, and on 2018 the option is to Oslo, Norway.

**The European Women Rapid & Blitz Championships started to be organized again annually.** On 2017 will be organized in Monte Carlo, Monaco and on 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia, while on 2016 is possible to be organized in Turkey.

A number of innovations were established and fees waived for the European Club Cup Open and Women **making it more popular among the clubs and especially reviving the women's competition.** ECU is will offer new special designed trophies for the winner

**ECU supported the European Small Nations Individual Championship**, which was held in Luxemburg from 1st to 11th April 2016, and the launch of chess in school programs in Europe.

**Chess made a successful debut in the European Universities Games, organized in Zagreb, Croatia enriching the sports program of a mass competition.** EUSA - European University Sports Association and European Chess Union made an important step. Chess builds its new profile within the European Sports Market.

**ECU Educational Commission completed and distributed the biggest part of the ECU Chess in School Survey.** <http://www.europechess.org/commissions/educational-commission/ecu-edu-survey-on-cis-201516-initial-findings/>

The Chess in School Conference, organized as a result of the co-operation of the European Chess Union and European Parliament, was held on 24 February in Brussels/Belgium.

The Conference was attended by the European Union officials and Members of the European Parliament, FIDE, ECU and National Federations' representatives, among whom Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the ECU President, Mrs. Ana Claudia Tapardel, MEP, Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Chairman of FIDE Chess in School Commission, representatives of bank of Georgia, the main sponsor of the ECU, and numerous school teachers.

ECU will co-organise with of the Georgian Chess Federation a second **"Chess in School Conference" from 24th to 27th October 2016 in Batumi**, parallel with the FIDE World Cadets Championship 2018.

ECU is ready to be member of partner of more prestigious European institutions. ECU is ready to sign a memorandum of understanding with the **European Fair Play movement** <http://www.fairplayeur.com>.

**The communication policy of the organization is gradually improving.** The ECU site is offering now live the games of the European Championships <http://www.europechess.org/live/> while the archive of results is developing connecting the history with the ECU Present. <http://www.europechess.org/events/archive-of-results/>

On behalf of the ECU Board

Sincerely,  
**Zurab Azmaiparashvili**  
European Chess Union President  
27.07.2016