



INTERVIEW WITH  
ECU PRESIDENT  
ZURAB  
AZMAIPARASHVILI



EUROPEAN  
UNION YOUTH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2016



EUROPEAN  
RAPID&BLITZ  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2016



EUROPEAN  
CHESS CLUB CUP  
2016

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



## 12 NEW EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN PRAGUE

The European Youth Chess Championship 2016 ended in Prague after ten days of exciting battles, 5843 chess games played, and participation of the record number of 1309 chess players.

The ECU president Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili attended the closing ceremony and awarded the winners, who received cups, medals and material prizes.

Out of 49 European federations participating at the event, Russia confirmed the position of chess superpower, as they won 5 gold and 15 medals in total. Armenia won 2 gold medals, Spain 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze, Turkey 1 gold and 1 silver, Hungary, Georgia and Germany 1 gold, etc.



The organizers prepared many interesting side events for the visitors, such as trips to famous castles of Vysehrad and Karlstejn, trip to Kutna Hora (UNESCO sight), Blitz and Rapid tournaments, and more.



FIDE seminars for arbiters and trainers were also held during the Championship and terminated successfully, especially the trainers seminar, which was attended by 35 trainers, among whom Czech top players GM Zbynek Hracek and GM Vlastimil Babula.



The thirty-member team of arbiters was led by IA Ladislav Palovsky from Czech Republic. It was a very diverse team, as the arbiters came from 14 countries. „It was not easy because for me it was the first time being the main arbiter at such a big event. Every arbiter did a great job, we did not have to deal with a single official protest which is quiet unique“, commented Ladislav Palovsky.



The TOP HOTEL Prague welcomed a lot of famous visitors during the tournament. Apart from Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Jan Mladek, and great players GM David Navara and GM Sergei Movsesian also visited the event.



EYCC 2016 was held under the auspices of the Deputy Mayor of Prague Mr. Petr Dolinek and the Mayor of the Municipal District of Prague 11 Mr. Jiri Styler, and under the financial support of the capital city of Prague.

[Results & Final Standings](#)

[Official Website](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

## European Union Youth Chess Championship 2016

EU Youth Chess Championship 2016, under the patronage of the ECU, was organized by Sachovy klub Svetla nad Sazavou in cooperation with the Czech Chess Federation. Boys and girls played in the same tournament, but their results were evaluated separately.



Championship had 85 players from 14 federations. All games were on-line transmitted. Young players have been pleased by awarding best game of each round. Thanks to the performance during the round eight to nine these players were rewarded: Jakob Klonov (GER), Deyan Samuil Kostov (BUL), Richard Turcan (SVK), Arthur Wachtel (GER), Sofia Barkasheva (EST), Denis Werner (GER), Barnabas Persanyi (HUN) and Bogdan-Emanuel David (ROU).



The last rounds were full of fights and tension. In category Boys U8 took the first place Blazej Grot (POL), the second place Jakov Klonov (GER) and the third Markuss Berzinsh (LAT). In category Girls U8 took the first place only six year old Wiktoria Smietanska (POL), the second place Lin Englert (GER) and the third Nora Rasheva (BUL).

Champion EU in category Boys U10 has become Deyan Samuil Kostov (BUL), silver medal took Valentin Genov (BUL) and the third place took Aron Pasti (HUN). In category Girls U10 has won Lucia Kapicakova (SVK), second place took Zuzanna Rejniak (POL) and the third place took Tatana Nespora (CZE).



In category Boys U12 has won Barnabas Persanyi (HUN), second place took Daniel Dardha (BEL) and the third place took Richard Turcan (SVK). Champion EU Girls U12 has become Alessia-Mihaela Ciolacu (ROU), the second place took Eniko Kiss (HUN) and the third place took Vitalia Khamenya (GER).



In category Boys U14 has won Radu-Cristian Fluorariu (ROU), the second place took Bogdan-Emanuel David (ROU) and the third place took Arthur Wachtel (GER). In category Girls U14 Champion EU has become Stella Sankova (SVK), the second place took Zuzana Gresova (CZE) and the third finished Daria Vanduyfhuys (BEL).



Standings & Results

Players who took first three places in each of categories got a cup and diploma. Every participant of EUYCC got a medal. All eight champions EU are leaving Kouty nad Desnou with a notebook! The next five players in each category also got valuable prizes. Every player got a T-Shirt with logo of EUYCC.

The prizes were given by director of the event Mr. Zdenek Fiala together with the tournament director of ECU Mr. Petr Pisk and director of the hotel Dlouhe Strane Ms. Irena Svedova.



Before Sundays finale there was a rematch simultaneous game with IM Pisk. The Czech IM played against nine players, both having 30 minutes on their clocks. The result was 6:3 for IM Pisk (won against Adam Josef Ret and Adam Sustek and drew with Tomas Vokoun and Ondrej Dejmal).



The organizers prepared chess and non-chess leisure time activities for all the participants and accompanying persons. Excursion to Hand-made paper-mill Velke Losiny, simultaneous games with IM Pisk, blitz tournament. Participants of the championship enjoyed their leisure time activities. In the hotel they could use swimming pool, wellness, sauna, table tennis, bowling, pool, etc. Official photo gallery from tournament and other activities is available on the official website, which is being updated with new interesting photos.



We would like to thank all players for their performance and fair play, all parents and coaches for cooperation, arbiters for running the tournament and all cooperators for their work. We hope you enjoyed together with us this championship and expecting to see you again the next year!

[Official Website](#)

## Official Invitation for the European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2016

The European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2016 will take place in Tallinn/Estonia, from 14-18 December, in Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel, which is the official venue of the Championship.



The Championships will be the main event of the Paul Keres 100 Festival, dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of Paul Keres, Estonian Sportsman of the 20th century and often referred as “The Eternal Second” in the chess world, one of the greatest players of all time.

The event starts with the European Individual Rapid Chess Championship, which will be held on 15th and 16th December. The Rapid competition will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move.

The prize fund is total 20.000 EUR, including 16.500 EUR main prizes and 3.500 EUR special prizes.

The event will continue with the European Blitz Chess Championship, which will take place on 17th and 18th December. The Blitz competition will be played according to the Swiss system, in 13 paired rounds, with the time control 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

Both Championships are open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members (FIDE zones 1.1. to 1.10), regardless of their title and rating.

The registration deadline for both events is 15th November 2016. Registration process will take place through the on-line system that will be made public on 1st September.



In order to popularize the event the organizers are offering special accommodating conditions for the top 20 seeds, as well as for the top 3 female players, along with an early registration, providing the highest standards in organizing.

The Estonian Chess Federation, in cooperation with the Republic of Estonia and the Estonian Olympic Committee organizes a year-round International Memorial Festival 'Paul Keres 100', which started on December 8 last year, with the International Youth Tournament "Chess Stars of the Baltic Sea Region" in Narva, the birthplace of the Estonian national hero, followed by several Paul Keres Memorial Tournaments in 2016, such as the 25th Keres Memorial – ACP Open, held on 7th January 2016, then Paul Keres 100 Memorial Tournament in Pärnu, 14-17 July, 2016, etc.

The final event of the festival will be the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship, which concludes the one year circuit.

[Official Website](#)

# ECU NEWS

## ECU becomes independent, strong, leads fight against corruption: interview with Zurab Azmaiparashvili

Source: chessdom.com

Q: Mr Azmaiparashvili, thank you for accepting the interview. In your report for the ECU General Assembly in Baku you state the improved financial state of the organization. Can you provide more details?

A: The financial reports are published and it is not difficult for members to make their own conclusion. Presenting the financial results of our first full year, we managed to increase the annual ECU income by about 30%, adding sponsorship, while decreasing the administration expenses in favor of the development actions and commissions' building.



The reserves of ECU are today approaching the 500k mark and the organization is healthy, sustainable and trustable as ever.

Q: The same report refers to secured funding for European Championships and increase in bidding activity. Can you elaborate?

A: Yes, this is the first time that all ECU competitions are fully booked 2 years ahead, until 2018. More federations are now bidding for the European championships since the procedure is open to any good proposal. European events are not anymore delivered in shady negotiations, as we witnessed in the General Assembly in Tromso.

The European Individual Championships, which haven't had organizers on time, are now secured until the end of our mandate. European Women Championship is now a package with European Youth Championship and the organizers instead to be donors of functioners are now sponsors of the Women's chess. Additionally the Open Championship is awarded for 2017 to Minsk and for 2018 to Batumi.

Through the improvements we made in regulations and the strategy of promotion of our events, the less popular competitions now have bidders and today we are facing the pleasant dilemma that we cannot satisfy all demands of federations and organizers.

Q: A large portion of the GA material is devoted to the dispute with the Bulgarian Chess Federation. What are the new findings since the 2015 GA in Bar?

A: Here someone should read carefully all the material in ECU GA agenda. Most of this material is produced by the Bulgarian investigation authorities, not by us, not by the aliens.

Bulgarian investigation reached us through the Bulgarian Financial Investigation Agency and through Interpol where we gave all the necessary explanation and documentation.



There are many findings. I will mention only that it is evident today that hundreds of thousands of euros were transferred to a bank account in Slovenia, belonging to the company ECU LLC Delaware, which is unknown to European Chess Union.

A number of fraud invoices with unreasonable charges were sent for this purpose, while Bulgarian Chess Federation still maintains the stance that this money is sent to the European Chess Union, even if they know that such ridiculous provisions and charges do not exist in ECU regulations.

You must read these reports carefully and then you will understand that for 4 years ECU was a means for a number of individuals to launder state money.

Q: The former ECU President Silvio Danailov stated in Bulgarian media that the ECU administration is trying to prevent his bid for FIDE presidency. How do you comment on this?

A: I would prefer to comment in more serious arguments but if you wish for an answer...

For Danailov it is a poor defense strategy to support himself inside Bulgaria, but for the FIDE administration it is a gift since it is known that if Danailov continues to screw and provoke FIDE opposition there will no be elections in 2018 since nobody will be able to stand up.

Moreover we are not completely satisfied how FIDE acts in the fight against corruption in Europe. There are final decisions of the FIDE Ethics Commission in the cases against Bulgarian Chess Federation which they didn't even publish on FIDE website with the months-long excuse that the FIDE Ethics Commission sub-site is not yet ready.

Q: The Board proposes suspension of the Bulgarian Chess Federation ECU membership. Is there really no other solution?

A: From May 2015 we tried to communicate with Bulgarian Chess Federation to get some explanations about huge alleged transactions to ECU.

Instead of having normal communication, we received a torrent of complaints for conspiracy theories against the President of Bulgarian Chess Federation, various attacks against ECU, and even attacks on our personal life.



Here everybody should realize that ECU Board has no other choice. There are criminal investigations ongoing for abuse of Bulgarian state properties and possible ECU properties. Many times we were asked officially and unofficially to remain silent but we cannot do it.

We will not tolerate the illegal actions. If the current ECU Board is not moving as it does, then we would be considered as partner in the case.

If hundreds of thousands and maybe more are lost through alleged ECU actions what we have to do? Not to act? Not to investigate? Not to bring all the material in light and ask our members to take position? What kind of Europe and chess we want? Why are we advocating for chess in schools if we allow such thinks to happen?

For all International Sports Federations there are no questions in such matters. In only few days a federation can be suspended if the rules are not followed and if corruption is evident.

Unfortunately, due to ignorance and the fact that administrative organs are not operating well, we allow people to act in chess like in the real mafia world.

This is not acceptable anymore for the European Chess Union. Everybody must take its position.

Q: How will this affect the ordinary chess players in Bulgaria?

A: Regarding the players – Not only we will not punish them, but we will protect them. The players are truly punished when the state funds go to offshore companies in tax heavens instead of supporting chess in Bulgaria.

Moreover a number of players were punished by the Bulgarian Chess Federation without any legal grounds. And even if there are civil court decisions against the illegal punishment, and decisions in FIDE Ethics Commission, the Bulgarian Chess Federation insists on these bans.

It seems that there is no any respect to basic human rights.

The ECU proposal is that if the suspension of Bulgarian Chess Federation is accepted, and until the matter is resolved by the Bulgarian authorities so that we can accept the federation back as

member, the players to be accepted in European Individual Championships by individual registration.

So our proposal is targeting the administration, which is responsible for all happenings, but also the Bulgarian state authorities that must take immediate actions to clear the situation.

Q: You are also member of the FIDE Presidential Board. What is your opinion on the proposed changes of FIDE Grand Prix format?

A: Well, this is an interesting question. I think the new formula has positive and negative aspects as everything in our life. In my opinion positive things are:

Shorter event – only 11 days instead of 18, and

Less money to obtain a wild card.

I'll explain what I mean. Previously, for your player, who didn't qualify by rating, but you wish to see him among Grand Prix participants, the only conditions were to organize GP and get wild card. Organizing cost of GP plus prize fund were very big – around 300,000 euros and even more. Today you can get easier a wild card!



But as I say in the beginning lets go for weak points. In the proposal we can see that 14 players are chosen by rating, 9 by wild card (65,000 euros sponsorship to GP) and one winner of ACP tour. All 24 players will play 4 Swiss tournaments with minimum prize fund 130,000 euros, multiply by 4 is 520,000. We can see that  $9 \times 65,000 =$  (from wild cards) amounts to 585,000. Agon collects the prize fund but...where are the organizers?

The tournaments are announced and we can see the first one will be launched in October 2016. Where? How? Many questions and no answer. In my opinion the idea, which Agon introduced, is not necessarily bad, but needs to be prepared more professionally.

Q: What is your opinion on the comments of World Champion Hou Yifan regarding the women's world championship cycle?

A: Well, I don't think this idea is new or Hou Yifan said something different from what I also have mentioned many times, including during my talks with FIDE leadership!

Hou Yifan for me is same as Carlsen, but when FIDE did everything to protect and brand the Men's World Champion, unfortunately I can't see the same agility in regard to women's chess!

I fully understand and support Hou Yifan! She deserves to be respected more.

Q: The proposal for world championship matches by the Russian Chess Federation was met by harsh criticism from the ACP. How do you comment on this?

A: The proposal of Andrey Filatov was first discussed during the FIDE Presidential Board in Moscow but was modified later. First of all I wish to say that Andrey is the FIDE Vice-President, President of the Russian Chess Federation, a well-known businessman and a chess lover. He is the one who invented and materialized the “Chess in Museums” program, supported many top and junior tournaments, and he has organised the World Championship Match in Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow. As all of us he also has the right to make any proposal and to put it under discussion. This is democracy.



From the other side ACP, federations, players also have the right to criticize or support, and to raise their views in matters which concern the WC title and are very sensitive for the entire chess world.

Personally I believe that the last years’ World Championship system with World Cup, Grand Prix, Candidates and final Match is quite successful and we must concentrate how to improve it further. The General Assembly will have the final word in each proposal.

Q: Another hot matter is that FIDE closed the year 2015 with deficit.

A: Nobody can be happy about this. It seems that FIDE had some problems to receive pre-agreed payments while the expenses were not controlled. In the last Presidential Board where we were presented these results I asked, among others, to reduce FIDE administration expenses which were very high comparing with the federation budget.

Q: Batumi in Georgia is set to host the World Cadets U8, U10, U12 Championships 2016. How is the preparation going? What are the other events planned to take place in Georgia?

A: I can say more about Prague preparation – it is ECU event and it is my job to monitor the situation. As far as I know the Georgian Chess Federation always organized the events on a very high level and I’m certain the same will be in Batumi. I am more aware about the ECU CIS conference, second this year, which will be held during the World Cadets Championship, from 24 to 27 October.

Next year Georgia will organize the World Cup and in 2018 the European Individual Championship, European Women’s Rapid & Blitz and of course the 43rd Chess Olympiad.

## European Chess Club Cup 2016

The European Club Cup 2016 will take place from 5 - 13 November in Novi Sad, Serbia, at the 5-star Hotel Park.



The event is played according to Swiss System in 7 rounds, and **so far we have 60 clubs from 27 countries registered by their National federations in the Open section, and 18 teams in the Women section.** The number of participants will be finalized and published by the completion of registration procedure by the clubs.

The total prize fund is 35.500 EUR (22.500 EUR Open section, and 13.000 EUR Women section).

Some of the contenders for the title are last year winners Siberia (Russia) and Nona (Georgia), Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova (Italy), AVE Novy Bor (Czech Republic), Mednyi Vsadnik (Russia), CE Monte-Carlo (Monaco), Gambit Asseco SEE (FYROM), Ugra (Russia), etc.

[Official Website](#)

## European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2016

Serbian Chess Federation and European Chess Union have the honour to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to FIDE and ECU to participate in the 16th European Youth Rapid & Blitz U-8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 Championship.

The event will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 26th to 30th December. The tournament hall will be Master Centre of Novi Sad Fair or SPENS Sports Centre.

The deadline for registration is **10th December, 2016**. The registration form is posted on the official website of the tournament.

The total prize fund for all events is 8.000 EUR in goods, and 1.300 EUR in cash.



The event consists of 5 separate competitions:

- (1) 16th Individual European Championship - Rapid
- (2) 15th European Rapid Cup - Rapid Superfinal
- (3) 16th Team European Championships - Rapid
- (4) 16th Individual European Championships - Blitz, and
- (5) 15th European Championship in Solving Chess Problems

[More information](#)

## FUN ZONE

In August Fun Zone we prepared 4 diagrams with The Knight Fork Theme, which is considered one of the most popular tactical themes. In all positions White to play. Enjoy!





**Solutions from NL July 2016:**

Mate 1

1. Nf6+ Kh8 2. Qxf8+ Rxf8 3. hxg7#

Mate 2

1. Nb5 Qxd6 2. Nxa7+ Kc7 3. exd6#

Mate 3

1. ... Re2+ 2. Kg1 Re1+ 3. Kf2 Rf1#

Mate 4

1. Qd3+ Kc5 2. Qd4+ Kb5 3. Qb4#

## They told about chess...

“The computer age has arrived, and it influences everything: analysis, preparation, information. Now a different talent is required - the ability to synthesize ideas.”

Boris Spassky, Russian chess grandmaster, tenth World Chess Champion (1969 - 1972), and the oldest surviving former world champion.



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

CHESS OLYMPIAD 2016	1 - 14 September	Baku/Azerbaijan	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
HERAKLION IT GRAND PRIX 2016	3 - 10 September	Heraklion/Greece	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
CITTÀ DI AMANTEA CHESS OPEN 2016	4 - 11 September	Amantea/Italy	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
10TH MEMORIAL JOSÉ TONOLI 2016	4 September	Anderlecht/Belgium	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
EURODE OPEN 2016	19 September	Kerkrade/Netherlands	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
PULA OPEN 2016	10 - 17 September	Pula/Croatia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
OSLO CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	30 September - 6 October	Oslo/Norway	<a href="#">Official Website</a>