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Circular Letter No.1/07.02.2022

Communique of the ECU Board

The 1st ECU Quarter Board Meeting took place in Thessaloniki, Greece on the 4th and 5th of February 2022. The main session took place in Thessaloniki City Council Hall on 4th of February. The Board was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor Mr. Nikolaos Zeimpekis and the President of the Greek Chess Federation Mr. Stathis Efstathopoulos.



Main information and decisions:

- The accounts for the year 2021 was approved.
- ECU program for the FIDE Development Fund 2022 was finalized. The activities include educational projects, Youth Training Programs, activities dedicated on Women's Chess, Seminars, innovative events, social projects, and Institutional development.
- The ECU Board discussed the European Qualifiers for FIDE World Cup 2023. Due to the pandemic postponements the European Championships' qualification path for the Open and Women's event turned to a 3-years-cycle. ECU Board firmly believes that the qualification under equal conditions through open Championships is the fairest procedure for all players. Thus, was confirmed that the European Chess Championship 2022 in Terme Catez Slovenia and the European Chess Championship 2023 in Moscow Russia will have each 20 qualifications spots. We note that through the European Chess Championship 2021 in Reykjavik have already been awarded 23 qualification spots.
- For the Women's World Cup 2023 28 qualifications spots will be awarded through the European Chess Championships. 10 spots have been already awarded by the European Chess Championship 2021 in Mamaia, Romania. The European Women's Championship 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic, and the European Women's Chess Championship 2023 in Budva, Montenegro will have each 9 qualifications spots.

European Championships

- European Corporate Chess Championship 2022 was confirmed in Rotterdam, Netherlands
- European Chess Club Cup 2023 is awarded to Duress, Albania.
- European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2023 is awarded to Bosnia
- European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2024 is awarded to Prague Czech Republic
- European Corporate Chess Championship 2024 is awarded to Paris, France

A Chess Board for All

The European Chess Union launched the campaign "A Chessboard for All" with the aim of donating special chessboards to blind or visually impaired children and young people throughout Europe at first stage. The program is inspired by the "A Ball for All" campaign supported by UEFA and other major international organisations.



ECU Board donated the first custom-made boards to the Thessaloniki School of Visual Impairment. The Chess Boards were delivered to the director of the School, Mr. Vasilis Messaritakis. Additionally boards donated to National [#Chess](#) Federations to distribute in their countries. The delivery to National Chess Federations will be continued. More information: <https://www.europechess.org/a-chess-board-for-all/>

Hybrid Match ECU – Berlin Chess Association

A Hybrid match was played on the 5th of February ECU Board vs Berlin Chess Association using the new technology of Millennium-55 boards. The match ended in a tie 2-2.

1. GM Adrian Mikhalchishin (ECU) - FM Joachim Dr. Wintzer (BCA) 1-0
2. Ralf Schnabel (BCA) - Sarkhan Gashimov (ECU). 1-0
3. Gunnar Bjornsson (ECU) - Juergen Brustkern (BCA). 0-1
4. Ralf Gebert-Vangeel (BCA) - IM Eva Repkova (ECU) 0-1



All the information here:

<https://torneo.com/chess/orgs/europechess/events/hybrid-match-ecu-berlin/summary>

<https://computerchess.com/en/hybrid-chess-tournament-on-real-boards/>

Sincerely,

Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou

ECU Secretary General