

### **Inspection of Poreč (Croatia) for the European School Chess Championship 2024**

<b>Dates of Championship:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> April – 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	<b>Federation:</b>	Croatia
<b>Inspector:</b>	Paris Klerides (CYP)	<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	26/06/2022
<b>Accompanied by:</b>	GM Alojzije Jankovic, Dalibor Pauletic and Marco Biagioli		

**Poreč** is a popular summer resort on the coast of the Istrian Peninsula in western Croatia. In the historic old town, the 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica complex is famous for its gem-studded Byzantine mosaics. The coastline north and south of town draws visitors with camping areas, marinas and beaches with water sports. Some 6 km inland, the Baredine Cave is notable for its stalactite formations. The main tourist areas are two bays south of the town, called *Zelena* (Green) and *Plava* (Blue) *Laguna* (lagoon).

Poreč's history extends far, far back to prehistoric times. The largest settlement during this period was called Picugi, which was home to an Illyrian tribe called the Histri (which is where Istria gets its name) in around 800 BC. In 129 BC, the Romans succeeded (after various attempts) in capturing Istria and the Roman settlement Parentium – present-day Porec – emerged and evolved. It grew in strength and importance and included Roman military and army bases. After the fall of Rome, Porec came under the rule of various empires until it became part of the Venetian Empire in 1267 under whose control it remained until 1797. During Venice's reign, Porec suffered considerably from plagues over the centuries so its population – which at one point was a healthy 3,000 people – only topped 100 people by 1646. The Venetians therefore brought in people from Dalmatia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Albania to help bolster the population of the town.

When the Venetian Empire fell, Porec came under the control of the Austrian Empire until 1918, when it once again became Italian, as part of the Kingdom of Italy. During this period, the Slavic population was oppressed and some left to live in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Porec suffered quite badly during World War II, and was heavily bombed by the Allies, especially so during 1944 when 75% of houses in the town were destroyed. Istria (and Porec) was assigned to Yugoslavia in 1947, and in 1991 was part of Croatia when it declared independence.

**Playing Venue:** “Valamar Diamant Hotel & Residence Congress Hall)”



Valamar Diamant Hotel & Residence is located in the middle of a beautiful pine forest only a ten-minute walk from the historic centre and from a tranquil beach on the Adriatic Sea. This unassuming resort is 2 km from the Aquacolors Water Park and 3 km from the 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica.



The size of the playing hall is 1000sqm. Due to the fact that the hall is now used as a playing field for various sports, we could not have a clear picture of how it will be laid-out during the tournament but the organizers assured me that the venue will be equipped with a thick carpet, sufficient light and air-conditioning.

They will use tables, boards and chess sets in FIDE standards and they will be offering the players free water during the whole tournament. Outside the playing hall and at a distance of about 40 meters there are 2 toilets and 3 urinals for men and 2 toilets for women. Additionally, outside the playing hall there is a room that will be used exclusively either by the secretariat or the arbiters and other officials. A special room shall also be used for Appeals Committee or/and Anti-Cheating Committee.

The photos below show how the space was designed in the past for other events.



Several other rooms can be used as press center, analyzing room and for live transmission of games.

## **Lodging and Meals**

Accommodation on full board basis (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided to all participants from April 26<sup>th</sup> until May 5<sup>th</sup> as follows.

### **Valamar Diamant Hotel \*\*\*\***

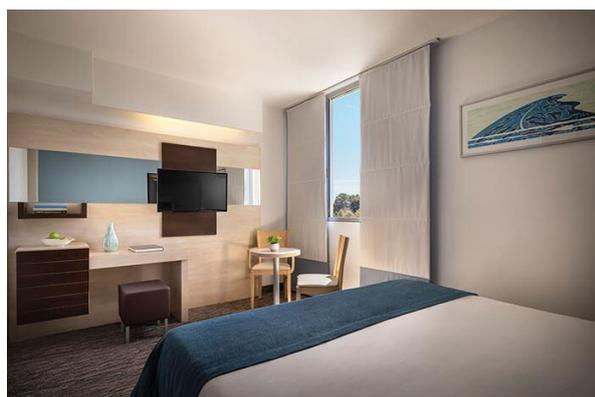
#### ***General Information:***

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
500 persons approx.	244 rooms of which 31 single, 16 classic, 97 superior, 34 junior suites and 66 superior triple rooms.		Buffet	---	---	Walking

Valamar Diamant Hotel is a sports and wellness oasis located only 10 minutes stroll from the heart of Poreč and 200 m from the beach. It offers indoor/outdoor pools, wellness, sports centre, superb buffet restaurant, well-tended beaches, playing rooms, tennis courts etc.



There are 244 well-appointed, air-conditioned rooms at Valamar Diamant Hotel. They are equipped with LCD TV, Wi-Fi, shower, direct phone line, hairdryer, mini bar and safe deposit.



Classic Single Room



Classic Room

Superior rooms have a sea-view balcony.



Superior Triple Room



Superior Room

The restaurant can serve up to 600 persons at the same time. Dinner will be served in two different terms to ensure greater comfort and safety.



- Standard Single Room:** €95 per person/night.
- Standard Double/Twin:** €79 per person/night.
- Superior Rooms:** *the price has not been set yet.*

**Valamar Diamant Residence \*\*\*** Distance, 200m from the Playing Venue.

**General Information:**

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
300 persons approx.	128 Apts with 252 rooms in total (2 – 6 persons). They can be configured according to the needs of the participants.		Buffet	200	2 minutes	Walking

Valamar Diamant Residence is nearby the Valamar Diamant Hotel. It is 200 m away from the beach. Guests have access to many facilities at the nearby Valamar Diamant Hotel, including a sauna, steam baths, massages, fitness center, tennis and mini golf course etc.



Valamar Diamant Residence has 128 apartments consist of 252 bedrooms (2 – 6 persons). They are equipped with air-conditioning, heating, direct phone line, satellite TV, Wi-Fi, shower, hairdryer, equipped chicken, microwave, coffee maker (upon prior request), dishwasher etc.



**Hotel Valamar Diamant & Residence** offers different additional rooms for entertainment which is ideal for young children but also for the free time of all participants.



The organizers shall also arrange for a designated space for all the people accompanying the players where they can spend their time happily as there is a Lobby Bar and Library and Lounge area.



**Indoor and Outdoor Swimming Pool:** Hotel Valamar Diamant & Residence has two swimming pools that all participants can use during the tournament.



*Indoor Pool*



*Outdoor Pool*

- heated freshwater swimming pool
- pool size: 20 x 12.5 m
- pool depth: 80 - 120 cm
- counter-current swimming, geysers and waterfalls
- children's pool with sprinklers and geysers
- heated benches
- towel service
- wellness bar

- freshwater pool
- pool size: 450 m<sup>2</sup>
- pool depth: 60 - 130 cm
- sun loungers and umbrellas
- swimming pool for children
- towel service
- snack bar by the swimming pool
- full service at the pool available at set hours.

**Fitness Centre:** (free use) multi-purpose gym – cardio & strength training equipment.





*SPA Zone (extra charge)*

- infrared sauna
- bio-sauna, Finnish crystal sauna
- barrel and small swimming pool with cold water
- whirlpool
- space for relaxation
- Ice fountain, different types of showers
- open tanning area
- heated benches



*Beauty Zone (extra charge)*

- massages (back massage, full body, aroma massage, hot stone massage)
- facial and body treatments
- authentic rituals
- depilation
- pedicures, manicures
- treatments for children and teenagers
- two-day custom mosaic packages: Sensation for Two, Manager Space, Pro Active, Family Time, Body Shape etc
- solarium



*Regional Centre for Physical Therapy*

**"Health through Motion"** is a motto that has been fostered by this centre of healthy living for more than 20 years based on the most up-to-date knowledge, continuous training, and an individual approach to each client. With the wide range of professional services and state-of-the-art physical therapy devices, they strive to provide healthy and painless movement for everyone who needs their help and assistance.

### **Airport Connections:**

**Pula International Airport** is the closest to Poreč and it is about 58 kilometers away. It is located 6 km from the city centre. The airport is designated as the alternative airport for parts of Slovenia and a multitude of cities in eastern Italy. It offers international flights to several European countries, as well as domestic flights. It serves as a major access point to city of Pula, as well as most of Istria, most notably Brijuni national park. It served 777,568 passengers in 2019.

Pula Airport at current location was initially used only for military purposes but has been changed to civil airport as of 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1967 and saw 701,370 passengers in 1987. Same year works on new terminal building began and were completed by 1989 with capacity of one million passengers per year. Croatian War of Independence has caused sharp decline in passenger numbers. The airport has seen steady increase in passenger volume over the next 3 decades, surpassing previous record in 2018.

Poreč can also be served by the "Trieste International Airport" located 122 kilometers away, west of Ronchi dei Legionari, near Trieste in Venezia Giulia, north-eastern Italy. The airport has a catchment area of approximately 5 million people, stretching beyond the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region into neighboring Slovenia, Austria and Croatia.

The transfer from/to Pula airport costs €100 per person, round trip and the transfer from/to Trieste airport costs €150 per person, round trip.

### **Additional information/remarks:**

There will be launched a modern tournament website with photo and video gallery available for impressions of players and accompanied persons. The organizers will provide full reports to all chess columns in newspapers and international chess websites and blogs. Live broadcast of at least 60 games will be provided during all rounds.

### **Conclusion:**

The bid of the Croatian Chess Federation fully meets the requirements of such a European Chess Event.

Based on my many years of experience mainly in youth tournaments, I can responsibly state that in case the offer is awarded to Poreč, the tournament will be crowned with a great success and I am sure everybody will enjoy the competition and their stay at "Valamar Diamant & Residence" facilities.

30.06.2022



Paris Klerides (CYP)