



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΣΚΑΚΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ

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Athens, 16 September 2026

RESOLUTION OF HONOUR AND REMEMBRANCE

On the Passing of the Honorary President of the Greek Chess Federation, Georgios Makropoulos

The Board of Directors of the **Greek Chess Federation (ESO)** convened in an extraordinary meeting today, Wednesday, 16 September 2026, following the passing of the Federation's Honorary President, **Georgios Makropoulos**, and unanimously expresses its profound sorrow at the loss of an outstanding personality who linked his name with the history, development and international standing of Greek and world chess.

There are people who serve an institution. There are also people who leave such a profound mark upon it that the history of that institution cannot be written without mentioning their name. Georgios Makropoulos belongs to the latter category.

A leading Greek chess player, an **International Master (IM)** since 1979 and **seven-time Greek Champion**, he represented our country at three Chess Olympiads, twice playing on the first board. Later, as President of the **Greek Chess Federation**, he made a decisive contribution to Greece's undertaking and organisation of the Thessaloniki Chess Olympiads in 1984 and 1988. His competitive career, however, was only the first chapter of a much greater journey.

For decades, he served Greek chess in senior administrative positions and, from 1986 onwards, became a constant and influential presence in the leadership of the **World Chess Federation (FIDE)**, serving, among other positions, as Deputy President and Vice President. His extensive experience, organisational ability, profound knowledge of the international chess world and vast network of relationships he had built made him one of the most distinguished figures in global chess administration.

Yet Georgios was not defined solely by his titles, positions and achievements. Above all, he was a fighter—and not only over the chessboard. He faced other, quieter battles in his life. He confronted serious health challenges with dignity and strength, without allowing these difficulties to become visible to others and without ever turning them into a personal excuse. He continued to attend, to work, to plan and to strive, with the same intellectual alertness and determination. Perhaps this was

one of the most characteristic aspects of his personality: he did not focus on the difficulty of the position, but on finding the best possible move.

And here, perhaps without anyone consciously seeking it, his life meets the game of chess he loved so deeply. In chess, a game is not decided by a single move. There are variations to be calculated, difficult positions to withstand, plans to maintain and, above all, the ability to continue searching for the best move when the position appears lost. Georgios Makropoulos knew these things. He knew them on the chessboard. He knew them in life as well. He was a man who did not readily abandon a position and was not afraid of difficult variations. He knew that great games are not always won through spectacular moves, but through endurance, patience, foresight and faith in the plan. Perhaps that is why his absence today feels so profound. Because Georgios was not simply another person who passed through the world of chess.

He lived chess as an athlete, served it as an administrator, represented it internationally and worked for its development for many decades. It is no coincidence that FIDE bids farewell to him as one of the most important figures in Greek and international chess, recognising his unique contribution to the administration and development of the sport.

The chess community is called upon to continue without a man who for decades stood at the centre of major decisions, major events and critical moments. Yet his legacy does not disappear. It remains in the institutions he served, in the events he envisioned and brought to fruition, in the relationships he built, in the people who worked alongside him and in the generations of chess players and administrators who will know his name. For great players leave behind more than a game. They leave a position, a plan and a legacy.

Today, the Board of Directors of the **Greek Chess Federation (ESO)**, fully aware of the immeasurable value of his contribution, bids farewell with deep emotion and the utmost respect not only to its Honorary President, but to a man who linked his name with the entire modern era of Greek and international chess. His loss leaves a void that can never be filled within the Greek chess family and the international chess community. His memory will, of course, remain alive through his work, the institutions he served, the major events he helped bring to fruition and, above all, through the indelible mark he leaves on Greek and world chess.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors **unanimously resolves**:

1. **To express** its profound sorrow at the loss of the Honorary President of the **Greek Chess Federation, Georgios Makropoulos**, and its sincere condolences to our dear Marina and his family, relatives and friends.
2. **To send** a letter of condolence to the family of the deceased on behalf of the Board of Directors.
3. **To cover** the funeral expenses of the deceased.
4. **To lay** a wreath at the funeral of the deceased on behalf of the **Greek Chess Federation (ESO)**.
5. **To attend** the funeral service with a delegation representing the Federation.
6. **To have** the President of the ESO deliver the eulogy on behalf of the Federation.
7. **To observe one (1) minute of silence** in memory of the deceased:
 - (a) at the first official event organised by the ESO;
 - (b) at the first meeting of the Board of Directors; and

- (c) during the matches to be held by the Unions, Local Committees and chess clubs on the weekend of **19 and 20 September 2026**.
8. **To have** members of the National Teams wear black mourning armbands during their matches and **to request from the World Chess Federation (FIDE), prior to the start of the fourth round of the Olympiad, that one minute of silence be observed in the playing hall**, as a minimum tribute to his memory.
 9. **To name** the Board of Directors' meeting room the **“Georgios Makropoulos Meeting Room.”**
 10. **To send** this Resolution of Honour and Remembrance to the family of the deceased and to communicate it to the Unions, Local Committees and chess clubs of the **Greek Chess Federation (ESO)**, the **European Chess Union (ECU)**, the **World Chess Federation (FIDE)**, and the **General Secretariat of Sports (GGA)** of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.
 11. **To publish** this Resolution on the ESO website and social media channels.
 12. **To consider** the establishment of an annual event and/or other institutional initiative in memory of Georgios Makropoulos, as a tangible recognition of his many years of valuable service and as a means of preserving his legacy for future generations.

For the Board of Directors of the Greek Chess Federation

THE PRESIDENT

STATHIS EFSTATHOPOULOS



THE GENERAL SECRETARY

THEODOROS TSORBATZOGLU