



The 47th FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD
The 4th FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
The 99th FIDE CONGRESS

Bid Inspection Visit
22nd – 23rd November 2023
Genoa, Italy

Participants of the inspection visit:

FIDE

Victor Bologan – FIDE Executive Director
 Lukasz Turlej – FIDE Secretary General
 Maria Balashova – FIDE Events Manager

Italian Chess Federation (FSI)

Roberto Mogranzini – Federation representative
 Nadia Ottavi – Federation representative

Genoa authorities Representatives

Giovanni Toti – Liguria region President
 Marco Bucci – the Mayor of Genoa
 Alessandra Bianchi – Deputy Mayor Municipality of Genoa
 Barbara Grosso – Member of the Genoa City Council
 Sandra Torre – Representative of the Municipality of Genoa
 Luigi Masnada – Representative of the Municipality of Genoa

1. General provisions

- 1.1 The city of Genoa along with the Italian Chess Federation are bidding for the right to become hosts of the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2028, FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities 2028 (hereinafter – Events, Olympiads), and FIDE Congress 2028 (hereinafter – Congress).
- 1.2 The Bidding proposal was submitted to FIDE on the 6th of November 2023.
- 1.3 The proposed dates of the FIDE Olympiad Chess Olympiad 2028 are the 16th – the 29th of October 2028. The proposed dates for FIDE Congress are the 20th – the 26th of November 2028. The bidders expressed their readiness to separate FIDE Chess Olympiad for People



with Disabilities 2028 from the above-mentioned events in order to make sure all participants will be accommodated as close to the playing hall as possible.

- 1.4 The inspection visit took place in Genoa on the 22nd and 23rd of November 2023.
- 1.5 The aims of the inspection visit were the following:
 - To inspect and evaluate the proposed facilities: playing and Congress venues, ceremonies halls, and accommodation facilities;
 - To assess the bidders' commitment to host a flagship event;
 - To evaluate authorities' involvement and support of the event;
 - To assess the city's infrastructure for hosting a major international event.
- 1.6 Venues and facilities inspected shall be described on the next pages of the present document.

2. About the city

- 2.1 Genoa is the sixth largest city in Italy and the capital of the Liguria region. With 550 thousand inhabitants, Genoa attracts annually more than 2 million tourists, hence tourism can be considered as the main industry of the region. The historical city of Genoa has a rich cultural heritage and many points of interest, that could be appreciated both by the participants and by the guests of the Olympiads and Congress. Besides, Genoa is an important logistics hub for Italy, its port is the second busiest in Italy.
- 2.2 The city authorities are eager to host major events. The most recent international sports event was Ocean race 2023 finals – an international sailing competition. As per the Mayor of the city, more than 100,000 people came for that event. Besides, Genoa was the host of the World Urban Games, Para Dance Sport World Championships held in November 2023 and IBCA European Team Chess Championship for the blind and visually impaired, that took place in April 2023 in one of hotels, suggested in the accommodation plan of the Olympiads. Apart from that, in 2024 Genoa will become the European Capital for Sports 2024, within its framework Genoa shall host hundreds of sport events of national and international, including sports events for people with disabilities.

3. Government relations and organization of the Events

- 3.1 During the inspection visit both the Municipality of the city of Genoa and the Italian Chess Federation showed full engagement and commitment to become the hosts of the Events. It was stressed by the bidders that both Olympiads are of great importance not only for the municipality, but to the country in general. Hosting the Events supports Genoa's aim to become an international destination for different kinds of sports and major attraction for visitors from all around the world.



- 3.2 FSI mentioned that the government, the President of Liguria region, the President of Italian National Olympic Committee and the Mayor of Genoa Mr. Marco Bucci were involved in the process of Bidding proposal preparation. Besides, the Events have support of the world-famous Italian singer Andrea Bocelli.
- 3.3 It was stressed that the Bidding proposal was co-signed by the Municipality of Genoa and FSI. The bidders are fully committed to fulfilling all requirements in accordance with the FIDE Chess Olympiad Regulations of the Main Competition 2028, which will be secured by free of charge venue facilities, Congress venue, visa services and by the amount of budget stated in the Bidding proposal (18 million euros).
- 3.4 FSI informed FIDE that if the bid wins, a separate legal entity shall be created. There is a high possibility that the Mayor of Genoa, Mr. Marco Bucci, will become the President of the Organizing Committee.
- 3.5 During the inspection visit FIDE had official meetings with the Italian Chess Federation representatives, the Mayor of Genoa Marco Bucci and his deputies and the President of Liguria region Giovanni Toti.
- 3.6 The bidders presented the letter by the President of Italian National Olympic Committee, that guarantees of cooperation in the process of obtaining visas.

4. Playing venue facility

- 4.1 The suggested playing venue for both Events is **Pavilion B**, also called **Blue Pavilion** – a large exhibition space located in the port of Genoa next to two large marinas (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/i5LEUToBp5wZMMqeA>).



Pavilion B from the sea side (photo taken from the Internet)

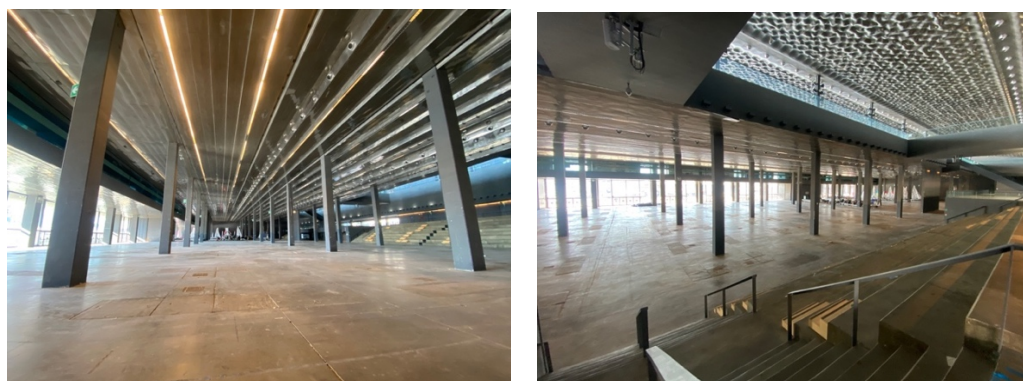
- 4.2 The Pavilion B is located in the area called Waterfront di Levante – a project of complex, that comprises new residential buildings, a hotel, a park, a sport palace with a mall and underground parking, and other facilities. The venue is located within 10-minute drive and within 30-minute walking from the city centre (calculations made between the main square Piazza Raffaele de Ferrari and the venue). Despite the proximity to the centre, the location



of the building in the port is quiet and silent. The general plan of the venue can be seen below.



- 4.3 The total area of Pavilion B is 35,000 m², out of which 20,000 m² are intended as exhibition spaces. The building would be rented for the Events on exclusive basis – no other events would take place there at the same time as the Olympiads.
- 4.4 The area consists of three levels – ground level, mezzanine (meetings rooms), and upper level. There are entrances from two sides of the building: from the quay (in the photo above) and from the opposite side. Having different accesses to the building might be crucial for separating players, spectators, VIPs, and other client groups flows. All levels are interconnected with elevators and escalators.
- 4.5 The ground floor area covers 11,000 m². It is planned to use the ground floor as the playing hall for the Olympiad. Due to the spaciousness of the area, it will be possible to separate some space inside for other purposes: players' lounges/refreshment areas, arbiters' rooms, medical rooms, rooms for the checks by the Fair Play officers, etc.



Ground floor of Pavilion B (photos taken by FIDE)

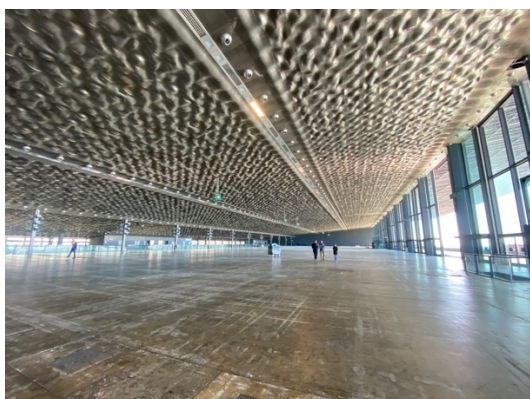


- 4.6 The level of lights can be assessed as insufficient, however, it was confirmed by the building technician that it is possible to hang frames with additional lights on the ceiling anchors to reach the needed level of lights.
- 4.7 The ceiling height is 10 meters.
- 4.8 It was confirmed by the building technician, that the air conditioning system is available and works properly and silently. It is not expected that the outside air temperature will be too high, hence there will not be a problem to keep the temperature in the playing hall on the level of FIDE standards of 21-23 degrees Celsius.
- 4.9 Toilets – there are 3 men’s and 3 women’s toilets in the playing hall with a total number of 25 women’s cubicles, 69 men’s cubicles/urinals toilets, and 3 toilets for people with disabilities. All toilets are located on the northern side of the building (opposite to the seaside).
- 4.10 On the mezzanine floor there are 20 meeting rooms between 100 and 230 m², that can be used for different purposes – Press Centre, VIP lounge, office facilities for FIDE and organizers, storages, etc. The rooms are divided with partition walls, that can be removed if necessary. All rooms have access to a balcony with a sea view. Also, there is a kitchen next to one of the rooms – it is recommended to consider that room as a VIP area.



Mezzanine floor of Pavilion B (photos taken by FIDE)

- 4.11 It is possible to consider organizing Commissions’ meetings in the meeting rooms on the mezzanine floor as an alternative to the Congress venue, described in clause 5.6 of the present report.
- 4.12 The upper floor comprises an area of 9,500 m². It is suggested by the potential organizers to use this space as Expo area or, in case both Events take place at the same time, the upper floor may be used as the playing hall of the Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities. Besides, any side activities can be organized in this area: open tournaments, workshops, simuls, etc.



Upper floor of Pavilion B (photo taken by FIDE)



Upper floor of Pavilion B (photo taken from the Internet)

- 4.13 There is natural light in the area coming through the 12-meter-high windows. However, it is possible to attach a black-out material to the windows.
- 4.14 The level of lights can be assessed as insufficient, in case of this level, no frames with additional lights can be attached to the ceiling, whose height varies between 5,5 meters and 12 meters. Hence, the potential organizers are recommended to look for different options of increasing the level of lights or not to host Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities and to have Expo area instead on the upper floor.
- 4.15 Since the venue is dedicated to different sorts of exhibitions, there are practically no limitations when it comes to additional build-ups (for example, of stages, partition walls, any solid frame structures, etc.) or flags and branding decorations, that can be attached to the walls, columns, glass surfaces, etc.
- 4.16 As can be seen in the photos, the floor is made of concrete, which can be considered as a silent surface, which is crucial for the tournament participants, however, it is recommended to cover it with carpet.
- 4.17 The venue itself has no furniture and equipment available, hence the organizers will have to rent all items from contractors.
- 4.18 The speed of the existing Internet in the building is 100 Mbit/sec. The potential organizers were informed that several additional networks with increased limits will have to be installed.
- 4.19 The parking for the participants of the tournament is planned next to the playing venue either under the roof of a tent (see the photo below) or next to it. The area under the tent is alternatively considered as an outdoor expo area – during the Ocean Race there was an expo village in this area. The potential organizers expressed the idea of providing some space for exhibition to each participating country.



Tent next to Pavilion B – potential parking area/exterior expo (photo taken by FIDE)

- 4.20 Due to the ongoing construction works in the area around the Pavilion B, it is not certain where the drop-off and pick-up zones for the participants would be.
- 4.21 Spectators' areas: spectators will be able to be seated on special tribunes on the ground floor. Considering the spaciousness of the area, it will also be possible to build a standing area. The spacious expo will also offer much options for spectators' activities.
- 4.22 The venue has a barrier-free environment and it corresponds to standards of venue for people with disabilities.

FIDE conclusion: the playing venue corresponds to the Regulations of FIDE Chess Olympiad 2028 in terms of facilities and location. The above-described allocation of spaces is preliminary, as the venue has a lot of facilities, which provides flexibility in usage of the venue.

5. Congress venue

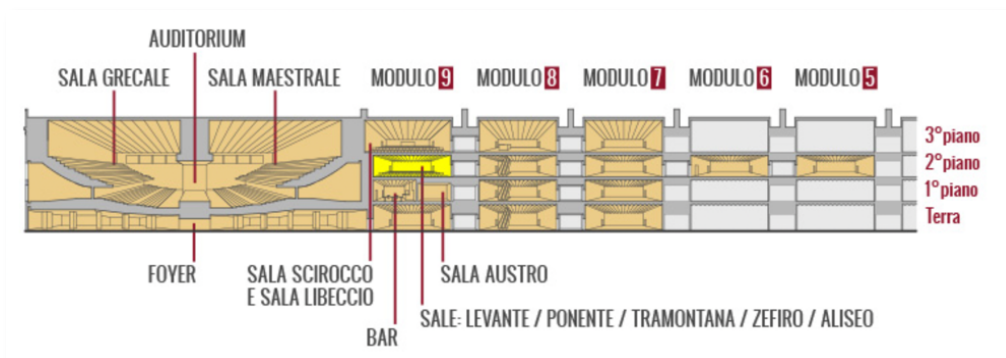
- 5.1 The main option for the Congress venue is Magazzini del Cotone – an exhibition space of 8,500 m², located in a historical building, that used to be a factory of cotton. The building is situated in Porto Antico – originally the old port and now a modern waterfront area in Genoa city centre.



Magazzini del Cotone from the outside (photos taken from the Internet)



- 5.2 Magazzini del Cotone exhibition centre occupies the biggest part of the building shown in the picture above. The exhibition centre comprises 4 levels.

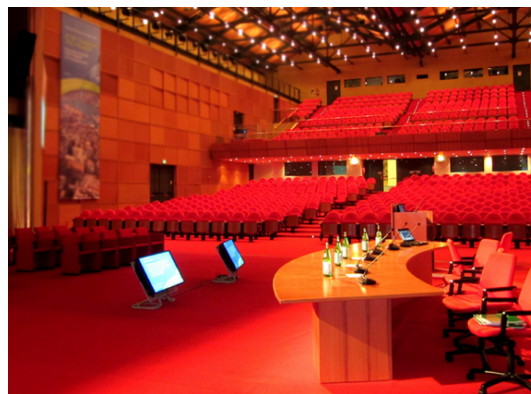


Magazzini del Cotone exhibition centre plan

- 5.3 There are two similar contralateral halls (“Sala Grecale” and “Sala Maestrale”), one of which is proposed by the potential organizers as the hall for the General Assembly. The seating capacity of one hall is 430 people in the parterre and 300 people on the balcony. The layout is theatre-style with foldable desks.



Sala Grecale (photo taken by FIDE)



Sala Maestrale (photo taken from the Internet)

- 5.4 Each hall is fully equipped from a technical point of view: it has a big screen, additional screens for speakers, stage lights, an audio system, microphones, and translation booths. Besides, the facility has partners who might provide IT solutions for the e-voting system during the General Assembly.
- 5.5 Spacious foyer with cloakrooms before the hall may be used as the area for coffee breaks.
- 5.6 There are 12 more rooms of different sizes with seating capacity between 30 and 260 pax (theatre style), that might be used for Zonal and Commissions’ meetings and as FIDE/organizers offices. Alternatively, Zonal and Commissions’ meetings can be carried out in the playing venue on the Mezzanine floor.



Meeting rooms in Magazzini del Cotone (photos taken by FIDE)

- 5.7 There is a parking space in front of the building, that might comprise 10-15 buses, however, this parking is public and its usage should be discussed with the authorities of Genoa. The suggested drop-off/pick-up point is at the parking in front of the building (as in the picture in clause 5.1).
- 5.8 The alternative option for the General Assembly is Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace) – a historical building that used to be a palace of dukes, and which is now the museum and the centre for cultural events and arts exhibitions.



Palazzo Ducale exterior (photo taken by FIDE)



Palazzo Ducale patio (photo taken from the Internet)

- 5.9 The capacity of the main hall, called Sala del Maggior Consiglio, is 420 pax theatre style. The size of the hall is 678 m².



The main hall in Palazzo Ducale (photos taken by FIDE)

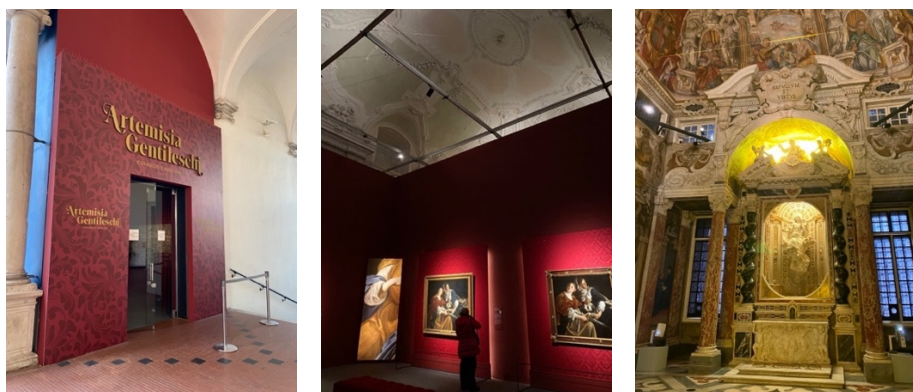


- 5.10 From the technical point of view, that hall is equipped with a screen, an audio system, microphones, and translation booths.
- 5.11 There is also an additional hall called “Sala del Minor Consiglio” with a smaller size and capacity, that can be used for Zonal and Commissions’ meetings. The capacity of the hall is 160 pax theatre style, the size is 383 m².



“Sala del Minor Consiglio” hall (photos taken by FIDE)

- 5.12 There is an additional space in the palace that might be used for FIDE needs. It consists of a few interconnected rooms and is usually used for exhibitions. The most curious part of that exhibition space is the “altar room” (on the right picture). FIDE might organize some chess-related exhibitions in this area.



Exhibition area (photos taken by FIDE)

- 5.13 As the Palace is located in the very centre of the historic downtown, it might be problematic to park vehicles close to it. The drop-off/pick-up zone for the participants might be arranged in front of the building.

FIDE conclusion: Maggazini del Cotone fully corresponds to FIDE’s requirements of Congress venue. It is recommended to hold the General Assembly in one of two halls there. As for Zonal and Commissions meetings, it might be considered organizing them in



Maggazini del Cotone or the meeting rooms in the playing venue. Palazzo Ducale, being a beautiful historical palace, is recommended for hosting any side activities or one of the Congress meetings.

6. Ceremonies venues

- 6.1 FIDE inspected Teatro Carlo Felice, which is proposed by the potential organizers as the venue for the Opening Ceremony of the FIDE Chess Olympiad. The theatre is located in the very heart of the city on the main Ferrari square.



Teatro Carlo Felice exterior

- 6.2 The theatre's seating capacity is 1975 pax both in parterre and balcony, which might be considered as insufficient for 200 teams and VIPs, hence, it will be necessary to consider presenting a limited number of invitations to each team.



Teatro Carlo Felice interior (photo taken from the Internet)



Teatro Carlo Felice foyer (photo taken by FIDE)

- 6.3 Teatro Carlo Felice is proposed only as the venue for the Opening Ceremony of the FIDE Chess Olympiad. It is not suggested as the venue of the Closing Ceremony of that event or any of the two ceremonies of FIDE Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities.
- 6.4 It was mentioned by the bidders that other ceremonies might be organized in the Sports Palace, which is being reconstructed next to the playing hall, as its capacity shall reach 10,000 pax.

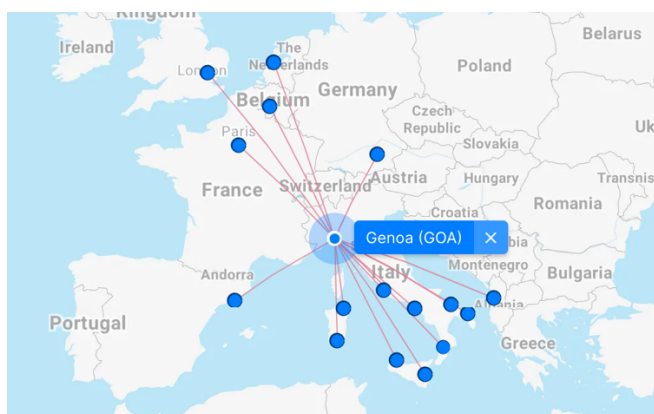


*Current construction status of the Sports Palace
(photo taken from the project presentation provided by the bidders)*

FIDE conclusion: Carlo Felice Theatre might become a prestigious venue for the Opening Ceremony, however, its disadvantage is insufficient seating capacity. The Palace can be considered as the venue for the Opening Ceremony only in case FIDE considers the possibility of limiting the number of invitations for each team and strictly verifying the list of VVIPs and VIPs. The Sports Palace might be a comfortable option for the ceremonies due to its capacity and proximity to the playing venue, however, the building should be inspected after construction works are completed.

7. Arrivals and departures

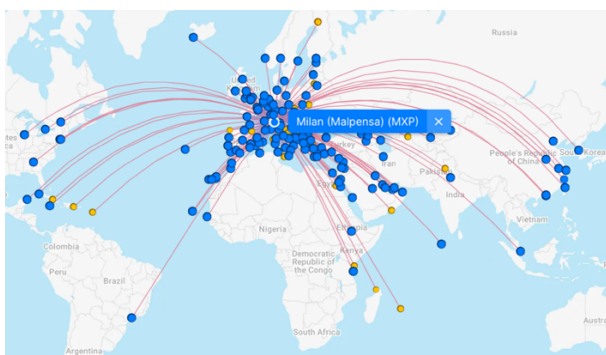
- 7.1 The bidders offer three airports for the arrivals and departures of the Events participants: Genoa International Airport (GOA), as stated in the Bidding proposal, and additionally Milan Linate (LIN) and Milan Malpensa (MXP) airports, added to the plan after submitting the Bidding proposal.
- 7.2 The closest airport is Genoa International Airport, located within 20-minute drive (7 km) from Genoa city centre.
- 7.3 Genoa International Airport is relatively small and it flies to 22 destinations. The airport has direct air connectivity only with European cities, which will be a comfortable option for European teams.



Map of destinations of Genoa airport (picture taken from www.flightconnections.com)



- 7.4 A new terminal shall be opened in Genoa airport by the end of 2024. However, due to the fact that the runway of the airport is too short, it won't be able to accept big aircrafts.
- 7.5 Milan Malpensa (MXP) and Milan Linate (LIN) airports are located within a 2,5-hour drive from Genoa. These airports are bigger and better connected with major aviation hubs than Genoa airport. Milan Malpensa has 181 destinations in 74 countries, while Milan Linate covers 36 destinations in European countries. The bidders confirmed that transportation from both mentioned Milano airports shall be provided free of charge to the participants of the Olympiads and Congress.



Map of destinations of Milan Malpensa airport (picture taken from www.flightconnections.com)



Map of destinations of Milan Linate airport (picture taken from www.flightconnections.com)

FIDE conclusion: Genoa city is not very well connected with countries outside Europe, however, guaranteeing involving Milan airports with free transportation to Genoa has significantly improved the bidders' Arrivals & Departures plan.

8. Local transportation

- 8.1 The bidders count on support of transportation companies owned by the local municipality.
- 8.2 Genoa city centre might be challenging in terms of having bus parking and spacious pick-up/drop-off zones. For this reason, thorough planning for each hotel and venue will be required.
- 8.3 Genoa has a developed public transportation system, which includes rail lines, buses, cable cars, and underground.
- 8.4 It was mentioned by the bidders that it can be considered to include rail transport into the transportation plan, in case it is faster to reach the playing venue this way from some hotels.
- 8.5 There is a concept of providing free admission to public transport to the participants of Olympiads and Congress.
- 8.6 Standard taxi applications (like Uber, Bolt, etc.) are unavailable in Genoa.



FIDE conclusion: local transportation requires thorough planning, as Genoa city, especially the old town, might be challenging in terms of having bus parkings and spacious pick-up/drop-off zones.

9. Accommodation

- 9.1 FIDE inspected three hotels during the inspection visit: NH Hotel (4*, 140 rooms), Starhotels President (4*, 190 rooms), and Bristol Hotel (5 *, 130 rooms).
- 9.2 The total room inventory of Genoa offered to the participants is 2311 rooms in 22 hotels of 4-5 stars. All the hotels are located within a 30-minute drive from the playing venue, as per clause 4. 9. 3. of the Regulations.
- 9.3 As mentioned in clause 4.2, there are 2 residential buildings and an 80-rooms hotel being constructed next to the playing venue right now. The construction completion is planned by the end of 2024. According to the bidders, it will be possible to contract these accommodation facilities for the needs of the Events.



*Current status of residential building construction
(photo taken from the project presentation provided by the bidders)*

FIDE conclusion: FIDE sees some risks in the room inventory capacity. However, taking into consideration the support of the Government and time given before the Events, this can be solved.

10. Catering

- 10.1 All hotels that shall accommodate the participants of the Events are committed to offering buffet menus featuring international cuisine. To ensure a seamless experience for all attendees, a standardized menu will be established across all restaurants to mitigate any potential concerns, as stated by the bidders.



FIDE conclusion: FIDE sees necessity to pay a special attention by the bidders to provide high-quality buffet-style catering in all official hotels.

11. Medical services

11.1 The bidders acknowledged that necessary medical assistance will be provided as per requirements indicated in the Regulations.

12. Side events and promotion

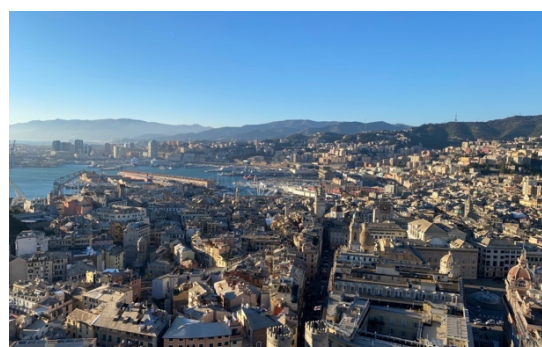
12.1 The bidders informed FIDE that in case of victory, they would start working on promoting chess in the country from the beginning of 2024, including preparation of trainers for chess in schools, introducing chess in every city park, and other activities. Several side events venues were shown to FIDE during the inspection visit.

12.2 Palazzo Giovanni Spinola is a privately owned palace with several halls that could potentially be used for some closed events with a limited number of participants. Additionally, there are 15 rooms, that offer quite a unique option of accommodation.

12.3 Terrazza Colombo is a lounge on the rooftop with a 360° panoramic view of Genoa. There are two levels with a total capacity of 170 pax.



Palazzo Giovanni Spinola (photo taken by FIDE)



View from Terrazza Colombo (photo taken by FIDE)

FIDE conclusion: the bidders are motivated to organize different kinds of promotional activities and side events. The city has many facilities to offer for side events organization.

13. Volunteers

13.1 The bidders plan to involve volunteers, who are graduates from local colleges, specialized in tourism and hospitality industries.

FIDE conclusion: the bidders acknowledged that volunteering programme will be elaborated.



14. Final conclusions from FIDE

Genoa city has submitted a strong Bidding proposal, backed by the strong commitment of the Italian Government, Italian National Olympic Committee, and Italian Chess Federation to organize the FIDE Chess Olympiad, FIDE Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities and FIDE Congress. Moreover, the Events are going to be carried out under the patronage of a distinguished singer Andrea Bocelli. Finally, Genoa itself is an attractive historical and cultural destination, which might be an interesting experience for the participants.