



All-Russian Public Organization
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Общероссийская общественная организация
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Ref. № 28

25 June 2024

Attn.: FIDE General Assembly
Re: FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission

Dear Sirs,

By the decision of the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (hereinafter – EDC) of June 7, 2024, the Chess Federation of Russia, representing the Russian Federation as a FIDE member, was excluded from FIDE for a period of two years in conformity with Art. 13.1 e) of the EDC Code.

As can be seen from this decision, the basis for the exclusion of Russia from FIDE membership was a complaint from the Ukrainian Chess Federation to the EDC. Satisfying the complaint, the EDC in its decision agreed with the plaintiff's arguments that their "rights were violated and this is directly and indirectly related to Russia's military aggression in Ukraine" (paragraph 69 of the FIDE EDC decision dated June 7, 2024).

Thus, the EDC acting on behalf of FIDE, has undoubtedly made a deliberately political and unsportsmanlike decision. By expelling Russia from FIDE membership, the EDC sided with Ukraine in the military and political confrontation between Russia and Ukraine.

Based on Art. 8.46. of the EDC Code, FIDE Officials and Employees shall remain politically neutral in their dealings on behalf of FIDE with government institutions, national and international organisations.

By virtue of Art. 4.4. and 4.6 of the FIDE Charter, FIDE rejects any kind of discrimination against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, citizenship, birth, age, status, wealth, disability, language, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, political opinions, or any other reason. FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all countries, zones and continents and to assure fair representation of countries, zones and continents inside FIDE organs and management.

In addition, according to Art. 13.3., 13.4. and 17.2. of the FIDE Charter, the admission of a new FIDE member as well as suspension or expulsion of Member Federations fall within the exclusive competence of FIDE highest authority – the General Assembly. A special procedure is established to provide a number of necessary conditions for the General Assembly to decide on the expulsion (suspension) of membership of the federation.

It should be noted that a similar position was also expressed by the FIDE Council and one of the EDC Panel Members (on which they issued a dissenting opinion).

This legal contradiction between the norms of the FIDE Charter and the EDC Code is resolved on the basis of Art. 7.3.1. of the FIDE Charter stipulating that the FIDE Charter contains the primary rules and the main principles of the organisation and cannot be superseded nor derogated by any other FIDE rule, regulation or decision i.e. the norms of the Charter, in comparison with any other FIDE document, have a prejudicial significance.

Taking into account the above, we believe that the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission has exceeded its authority by violating its duties under Art. 8.4. of the EDC Code and failed to maintain neutrality in the political matter. The FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission has made



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a deliberately biased and politically motivated decision that affected the rights of Russian chess players, and has created a dangerous precedent by flagrantly violating the Olympic principles of fair play.

Guided by of Art. 17.2. b) and e) of the FIDE Charter, we ask the General Assembly:

1. To amend the Art. 13.1. of the FIDE EDC Code by deleting paragraph “e” as it contradicts the FIDE Charter;
2. To re-elect the entire FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission, including its Chairman, due to his unsatisfactory performance in his office.

Best regards,



Alexander Tkachev
CFR Executive Director