



# European Draughts Confederation

Established in Tallinn on 13.08.1998 – Recognized in Trieste on 16.11.2021

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EDC Protocol Number: 162/2023/ Deeds

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

## EDC General Assembly Minutes

Tallinn (Estonia), 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

**18 participants** (as indicated and signed in the list of EDC GA presences): Jan Zioltkowskyi (Germany), Janek Mäggi (Estonia), Vadislavs Vesperis (Latvia), Muzsahov Elshaol (Azerbaijan), Oleg Shapunov (Ukraine), Damian Reszka (Poland), Edvard Buzinski (Lithuania), Arnaud Bouyrie (France), Tarmo Tulva (Estonia), Carlo A. Bordini (Italy), Johan Demasure (Belgium), Dario Ghittoni (Italy), Aare Harak (Estonia), Krista Pahapill (Estonia), Uladislav Splendzer (IP, EDC Board Member 2019-2023), Glib Ushakov (Ukraine), Magda Pawlowska (Poland), Rik Keurentjes (Netherlands).

**10 Ordinary EDC Members' presences, with voting right:** **Germany** (by Jan Zioltkowski), **Latvia** (by Vadislavs Vesperis), **Ukraine** (by Oleg Shapunov), **Poland** (by Damian Reszka), **Lithuania** (by Edvard Buzinski), **France** (by Arnaud Bouyrie), **Estonia** (by Tarmo Tulva), **Italy** (by Carlo A. Bordini), **Belgium and Netherlands** (by Johan Demasure), with regular delegates' registration forms previously sent or given in place (missing the Czech representative despite the delegates' registration form being sent).

The outgoing EDC President, Carlo A. Bordini, recalled the Agenda of EDC General Assembly (hereinafter indicated with the acronym GA) of the official convocation sent to the Federations (*EDC Protocol Number: 067/2023/ Out of 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023*):

### Agenda:

1. Opening, Welcome and Checking of quorum (*as in EDC Statute, Chapter 4, article 2, point 8*)
2. Choice of GA Meeting for the elections of the President, the Secretary and 2 Tellers.
3. Report of activities and discharge of the Executive Board (*as in EDC Statute, Chapter 4, article 3, point 2*)
  - a) Reports by the President and General Secretary;
  - b) Approval of the previous two-years' minutes;
  - c) Presentation, discussion and approval of the EDC accounts for the preceding financial years;
  - d) Consideration of appeals made to the EDC Board resolutions on exclusions and suspensions of the EDC membership rights;
  - e) Introduction of new regulations or amendments to existing financial resources, Tournaments and other Regulations;
4. Election of candidates:
  - a) EDC President (1): presentations of candidates and voting;
  - b) EDC Executive Board Members (5): presentations of candidates and voting;
  - c) EDC Audit Committee: Auditor (1), Deputy Auditor (1), Assistant Auditor (1): presentations of candidates and voting;
5. Discussion points
6. 25<sup>th</sup> EDC Anniversary Celebrations;
7. Closing

As for point **1. Opening, Welcome and Checking of quorum** Carlo A. Bordini welcomed the participants, with 10 representatives attending the meeting out of 15 Federations Ordinary EDC Members (*as in the Executive Board Meeting Minutes n. 4 – 2023, EDC Protocol Number: 078/2023/ Deeds of 16th June, 2023*) and at 3.00 p.m. he declared that the quorum had been reached.

Then Carlo A. Bordini treated point **2. Choice of GA Meeting for the elections of the President, the Secretary and 2 Tellers**. The participants unanimously voted for Janek Mäggi (Former FMJD, EDC and EDF President) as President of the EDC General Assembly, Rik Keurentjes General Secretary of the EDC General Assembly, and Krista Pahapill and Muzsahov Elshaol as Tellers. After that Carlo A. Bordini left the leadership of the General Assembly Work to Janek Mäggi.

As for point **3. Report of activities and discharge of the Executive Board** (as in EDC Statute, Chapter 4, article 3, point 2) the President of GA, Janek Mäggi, gave the floor to the EDC 2019-2023 President, Carlo A. Bordini, in order to deal with the topic **3. a) Reports by the President and General Secretary**. Bordini recalled all the Executive Board Meeting Minutes, always published, remembering the hard times due to Covid-19 when, despite the difficulties, online activity in 2020, in-person activity since 2021 (online for youth) has been always guaranteed, also thanks to the EDC anti-covid protocol, with a really wide participation to the online tournaments for youth.

C.A. Bordini recalled the EDC Executive Board job during the four years with lots of steps taken forward, recalling the main results achieved: a new Statute officially recognized, an EDC own Bank Account opened, official and clear guide lines to assign championships, Executive Board minutes (in English, French, Russian and recently also in Ukrainian) regularly published, but also Rules and Regulations and decisions taken were published and sent to the EDC Federations. Furthermore, EDC financial reports were published annually, starting from the 2019 ones (reconciled with the 2018 ones). In addition, before each EC agreement they were shared and signed by the EDC Members and Organizers. From October to December 2022, EDC was called also to face an appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne (Switzerland), in relation to a decision taken by the EDC in September 2022: another hard matter which was closed with a procedure removed from the CAS roll.

Brick by brick, step by step, the President was deeply involved in making EDC the real home of the Federations: transparent in his attitude, open to suggestions, ready to meet the challenges of the time thanks to a great teamwork that brought to a supportive cooperation and the sharing of objectives and final choices in a clear shared path.

First Vadislavs Vesperis and then Janek Mäggi intervened to express their congratulations on the great work done by the President and the Board Members during the 4 previous years.

Then the topic **3. b)** was treated: **Approval of the previous two-years' minutes**, from GA 2021 to GA 2023: GA unanimously approved.

As for topic **3. c) Presentation, discussion and approval of the EDC accounts for the preceding financial years** C. A. Bordini recalled the main numbers and the approved financial resources (included in EDC Website under documents). As nobody asked for any further explanations the GA voted and EDC accounts were unanimously approved.

As for topic **3.d) Consideration of appeals made to the EDC Board resolutions on exclusions and suspensions of the EDC membership rights** was clarified and GA shared the motion of Muzsahov Elshaol (Azerbaijan) in relation to Azerbaijan Draughts Federation that will be linked to EDC as an Ordinary Member if they pay EDC Annual Fee 2024.

For what concerns **topic 3.e) Introduction of new regulations or amendments to existing Financial resources, Tournaments and other Regulations** there weren't any further proposals. The one introduced by Vadislavs Vesperis about no free places in European Youth Championships is a matter to be treated on 5th discussion point.

After a short coffee break President Mäggi moved on to point **4. Election of candidates**, starting from topic **a) EDC President (1): presentations of candidates and voting**. He gave the floor to Carlo A. Bordini, being the only candidate for the charge. C. A. Bordini had already given his EDC work and management plan 2023-2027 to the participants. Entitled "*I am because we are...in draughts!*" and edited together with the candidates for EDC Executive Board, he explained the main contents about the analysis of the current situation, positive strengths, critical points and the mission of the Team. He remarked that new European scenarios call every European Federation to work together with the others, as a unique team, because each Federation is made up of draughts lovers and it is a piece of the draughts world belonging to it inextricably, any moment of its life. The Ubuntu concept: "*I am because we are*" is deeply inspiring. At the end of his speech C.A. Bordini remarked that "*There are horizons open to all and to be achieved together ... Together, at the service of the EDC, to keep growing and going even further! Because in what we have lived there is all the energy to build our stronger future!*"

Then the representatives received the Ballot Paper for voting and subsequently everyone inserted the written paper in a box. The two nominated Tellers, Krista Pahapill and Muzsahov Elshaol, checked the voting operations. After everybody had voted, they proceeded with the counting of the ballots. With 10/10 votes, EDC General **Assembly unanimously re-elected Carlo A. Bordini (Italy) as President of the European Draughts Confederation for the following four-year period (2023-2027)**.

As for point **4.b) EDC Executive Board Members (5): presentations of candidates and voting** President Mäggi gave the floor to the 5 candidates.

Johan Demasure remembered his life devoted to young people as a teacher, to trainers and to his role of referee. In time he became an FMJD Tournament Youth Director and exercised such a job till 2017, when he had to give up for health reasons. But luckily he felt healthier day by day and from 2019 he was named EDC Executive Board Member, Tournament Youth Director and Deputy Vice President. He went on remarking that in the 4 following years, every time they met, everything had been discussed in a group, looking for the best and possible decision for EDC and draughts. Now he is 73 years old, but he feels younger and ready to work for EDC and especially for youth.

Magda Pawlowska thanked C.A. Bordini and all the members of the Team for having offered her the chance to work for EDC. The President replied mentioning her role as the President of the Polish Draughts Federation, her prestigious position as an international referee, organizer of championships and recently also her nomination as an FMJD Tournament Youth Director.

Tarmo Tulva remembered first his activities in Estonia as Board Member and then, from 2017, his job as the President of the Estonian Draughts Federation and also as an organizer of events. Since 2019 he has been Member of EDC Executive Board and Tournament Director and since 2021 he has been Vice President. His commitment as a T.D. has been (and is) aimed, above all, at raising the number of countries that organize European Championships.

Glib Ushakov remembered his past role as a good draughts player, now busy with the basketball world and also as a crypto-values manager. As a draughts lover he hopes that in the future EDC can start talking about millions of euros instead of thousands. It's important to define some Key-phrases associated with EDC as "Give something and get more" (some similar to "just do it" of the Nike). It is important to improve the social EDC network, to create dissemination and connection among all the actors of draughts (e.g. sharing EDC post to a higher number of followers and contacts). Glib closed his speech sharing his thought that the next Executive Board will be a very good Team.

Jan Zioltkowski recalled his path to the EDC Board Members. He has been a Member of it for 16 years. His job has concerned especially the Veterans where he has been T.D. since 2021, but also as a Referee and sometimes of Players as well. He is also the President of the German Draughts Federation and has organized many events.

Then the representatives received the Ballot Paper for voting, on which they were entitled to select no more than 3 names. After voting, the papers were ready to be dropped into the box. The two nominated Tellers checked the voting operations and after everyone had voted, they proceeded with the counting of the ballots.

Tarmo Tulva got 7 votes; Johan Demasure, Magda Pawlowska, Jan Zioltkowski got 6 votes; Glib Ushakov 5 votes.

***Johan Demasure (Belgium), Tarmo Tulva (Estonia), Jan Zioltkowski (Germany), Magda Pawlowska (Poland) and Glib Ushakov (Ukraine) were elected as EDC Executive Board members.***

As for point **4.c) EDC Audit Committee: Auditor (1), Deputy Auditor (1), Assistant Auditor (1): presentations of candidates and voting** President Mäggi gave the floor to the EDC President Carlo A. Bordini, who explained about the functions of Auditors, as written in the EDC Statute. Then Aare Harak, candidate as Auditor, introduced himself to the GA. He recalled his activities as treasurer of EDC and FMJD; in addition, he spoke about his commitment to co-organizing many events in Estonia. He thinks there are lots of useful things that can be done to improve EDC: for example, to create a connection between FMJD fees and EDC fees to avoid a larger number of Federations in EDC than the existing ones in FMJD, or to have FMJD Federations that are not in the EDC.

After that the representatives voted, and with 10/10 votes **Aare Harak (Estonia) was unanimously elected Auditor.**

In absence of candidatures for the role of Deputy Auditor, an appeal was made to the participants in order to indicate available candidates. As the only candidate as an Assistant Auditor, called Bart Stegeman, was not in, the vote proceeded directly and with 10/10 votes **Bart Stegeman (Slovenia) was unanimously elected Auditor.**

In the meanwhile, Ester van Muijen, Coach of the Female Dutch Team, applied as a Deputy Auditor. On her application the representatives voted and with 10/10 votes **Ester van Muijen (Netherlands) was unanimously elected Deputy Auditor.**

As for point **5. Discussion points** President C. A. Bordini talked about the request of NUDF President, submitted on 27<sup>th</sup> July and aimed at helping the Ukraine Federation and its Youth Players abolishing the EYC fees for what concerns the EDC part. Topic that EDC Executive Board, submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> August, forwarded to the General Assembly, for many obvious reasons. After a short debate the representatives voted (10/10) unanimously

that for 2023 and the next two years (as long as any other decisions will not be made by the next GA), the part of EDC fees, asked for the registration to the European Youth Championships, is not owed by to the Ukrainian players.

Then it was shared with the GA the desire of the new Board to widen the officially played specialities, including the Checkers (in agreement with WCDF, as expressed in the plan) and to take also into consideration other variants of the game, simply called Draughts 64, in order to involve a greater number of Federations and draughts lovers. After a series of sharing speeches, concerning national main checker/draughts games of each Country and the past role of IDF, currently put aside from FMJD, the GA unanimously voted in favour of the proposal to enlarge EDC activities to Checkers and other Checkers/Draughts 64 variants.

**As the third topic of point 5** the discussion continued on the request of KNDB to change back the name of Under 27 EC into Students EC. After a short debate about differences between 'Students' and 'Under 27', the GA voted to keep the name Under 27 EC (7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstained from voting).

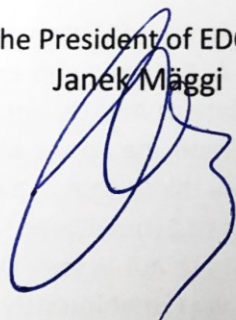
**As the fourth topic of point 5** Vadislavs Vesperis talked about the absence of free places for players in European Youth Championships and also a poor number of organizers of that event. Rik Keurentjes, as coach, spoke against that proposal, because the absence of free places is an obstacle to the participation of a larger number of players. After a short debate, it was also shared the opportunity to remove even the surcharge fee for the fourth player to balance and involve more players' participation. Then the GA voted to remove free host places from European Youth Championships (8 for removing, 1 against, 1 abstained from voting). GA also unanimously voted to have the 4<sup>th</sup> place for Player Category, without surcharge, in the E.Y.C., and, even more, the same fee for the first 3 Players.

**As the fifth topic of point 5** Damian Reszka talked about the possibility to organize the Veterans EC and the Under 27 EC in Poland. Moreover, he focused on the importance of the National Anthem during the awarding ceremony, to be included in the agreements and clearly mentioned in the Rules and Regulations of Championships, to avoid what happened in Hijken 2022, when the National Anthem was missing. All the GA agreed about the high and solemn significance of National Anthems and that they must be part of awarding ceremonies.

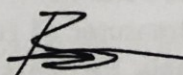
Damian Reszka also talked about the category and championship for Young Stars (players under 8 years of age) to be included also as a European Championship Category. After a short debate, Johan Demasure, as EDC TD of Youth, explained the reasons why he is not in favour. The GA voted. Results: 2 in favour of adding an Under 8 category, 4 against, 4 abstained from voting.

As there were no other topics to discuss or proposals to make from the participants the GA was closed at 6.00 pm, inviting the Group to go downstairs for memorable pictures to be taken, and then to get to the Powerhouse Headquarters, in Central Square in Tallinn, to celebrate the EDC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (**point 6** in agenda) with a special dinner.

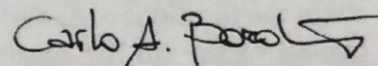
The President of EDC GA  
Janek Maggi



The General Secretary of EDC GA  
Rik Keurentjes



The EDC President  
Carlo A. Bordini



Approved by EDC Executive Board on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023