



European Draughts Confederation

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Headquarter: Largo Lauro De Bosis n. 15 – 00135 ROME (Italy)

www.europedraughts.org - board@europedraughts.org

Tax Code 96507400586

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EDC bi-yearly General Assembly on 3rd August, 2025 – Minutes

On 3rd August, at Grand Hotel Capitol, in Chianciano Terme (Italy), the EDC General Assembly of mid-term (bi-yearly) was held in the presence of Carlo A. Bordini (President of the Italian Draughts Federation – FID, and of the European Draughts Confederation - EDC), Johan Demasure (as Deputy Vice President of EDC Board and Member of KBDB), Tarmo Tulva (as Vice President of EDC Board and President of the Estonian Draughts Federation - EDF), Boris Darry (Vice President and officially delegated by FFJD), Ambrózy Bálint (officially delegated by Hungary), Ester van Muÿen (officially delegated by KNDB), Vadislavs Vesperis (President of the Latvian Draughts Federation - LDF), Edvard Buzinskij (as representative of Lithuanian Draughts Federation - LDF), Sylvester Flisikowski (President of the Polish Draughts Federation - PDF), Peredeit Oleksandr (Ukraine), Jan Zioltkowsky (Member of EDC and representative of the German Draughts Federation - DDF) officially delegated by Carlo A. Bordini, Janek Mäggi (former President of the European Draughts Confederation - EDC), Aleksej Domcev (Lithuania) and Magda Pawloska Member of the EDC Board who acted as Secretary of the General Assembly.

In second call, at 15.00 (local time), the President Carlo A. Bordini opened the meeting with the following

Agenda:

1. Opening and welcome and checking of quorum;
2. Report on activities;
3. Status of Ordinary and Associated Members (*in relation to recent payments of EDC annual fees*);
4. Discussion points (proposals from the Board or National Federations):

As for item **1. Opening and welcome and checking of quorum** the President thanked the participants and then he verified the regular number of represented Federations. Despite the Hungarian and Ukrainian delegates had to be formally verified after the meeting (*notice: Hungarian DF President confirmed it on 21st August*), the President C.A. Bordini declared the EDC General Assembly 2025 officially open, inviting the participants to sit at the table, all together, because the EDC Board has always belonged to all the European Federations, without distinction. He even added that cooperation, the sharing of ideas, the fundamental principles of democracy and transparency are the base to follow in each path at the service of draughts.

After that the President C.A. Bordini moved on to item **2. Report on activities**. He showed a folder full of the documents, minutes, financial reports and any other documented decisions that had been previously and regularly published on the EDC website.

The President also reminded those present that none of the Federations had sent a proposal to organize the European Championships of Teams 2025, hoping that someone would be willing to arrange them after the General Assembly.

Regarding the Financial Statement, C.A. Bordini focused on the bank account report, underlining that money can effectively support initiatives and necessities through a fund that was obtained and maintained thanks to the accuracy in the management of the agreements for the Championships, with clear guidelines and a regular planning. Such a favourable condition finally ensures a budget for the EDC to rely on when necessary: it will always be a resource to be managed with care and wisdom.

The EDC Board is particularly involved in empowering the number of active Federations, especially by developing all kinds of Draughts and Checkers. Cooperation with WCDF is a real and achieved goal to keep in permanent development. An effective result was the organization of the EC of Checkers, but it is also the right time to focus

on the promotion of Draughts 64 that is the type of Draughts System played in Eastern Europe as the most widespread first board game. Another challenging objective will be the organization of a European Championship of Draughts 64, the Brazilian Version, in a very near future.

The Board believe that the EDC, being the unique European Confederation officially recognized by FMJD-World Draughts Federation, is the Confederation of all Draughts/Checkers/Damme European Systems and therefore the EDC Members have to act according to their function.

Every Participant in the Assembly agreed.

About item **3. Status of Ordinary and Associated Members** (*in relation to recent payments of EDC annual fees*), Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israeli, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia were unanimously confirmed at status of Ordinary Members with the right to vote.

Other Federations are Associated Members.

Then the President underlined the strange situation that concerns Portugal whose Federation renounced, on one side, to pay the EDC annual fee but, on the other side, they organized the World Championship of Portuguese Draughts, under the auspices of FMJD, for the second year.

In recent years, both the EDC and the Draughts Federations have tried, planned and carried on proposals that have been regularly sent to the FMJD by email, but the experienced feeling is that the FMJD Members do not seem to care about that evident and undeniable commitment, maybe they have been too busy with other questions. No doubt that the FMJD is above the EDC and the Continental Confederations, but it would be surely more productive and stimulating to work together. World activities could be improved and developed regularly if only shared with the Continental Draughts Federations, according to a plan which obviously should be common. So more cooperation and less imposition are expected. That is the way that the EDC would like the FMJD to act, the way that the EDC is concretely showing to promote the Sport of Draughts together with the European Federations, the only way to grow up.

Then the item n. **4. Discussion points (proposals from the Board or National Federations)** was faced. The first proposal from the EDC Board concerned the **Titles for Veterans and Under 27 Championships with at least three participants (extendible to each category)**. Everybody agreed to assign titles to Veterans and Under 27, men/women, boys/girls, only with at least three participating players in the category. The General Assembly also agreed to join the European Championships Under 27 to the Youth ones, moving them from the Veterans' competition. In the matter the consideration of the reduced number of participants in those categories was essential, due to the short number of Ukrainians and the absence of the Russian and Belarusian Federations, both suspended because of the war/invasion of Ukraine. In the past the participation from those countries was so high that the management was not that easy.

Furthermore the EDC GA officially decided to propose the FMJD GA an alternation between the European and the World Championships for Veterans: one in the even years, the other in the odd years, in order to give more importance to both sports events, avoiding any sort of overlap.

As for *Edvard Buzinskij's objection about gender equality in groups' formation to decide about boys/men-open groups in the next European Championships*, after a long and deep discussion it was noticed that current rules/FMJD Annexes could be against gender equality asked by IOC: the simultaneous formation of an 'Open' Group and a 'Girls' Group give more opportunity to the female gender. The suggested solution to integrate the Group Categories in which Boys and Girls play together seemed too innovative and those present at the meeting were divided about that and they had different views.

In the end everybody agreed that any other decision will be taken after the FMJD GA to whom address a clarification. Indeed, the EDC GA even officially decided to ask FMJD GA to clarify if an 'Open' Group can be effectively maintained without creating a conflict with IOC rules.

Regarding the proposal of the Board to *Keep free participation to championships for Ukrainian players*, except for the Netherlands (abstained), all those present expressed their favourable opinion.

After a short break (16.50-17.15) the President C.A. Bordini introduced the Italian Technical Sponsor and Official Supplier for FID: the sportswear "LEGEA", represented by Mr Ferdinando Chianese, the CEO, who expressed the availability of LEGEA to work also with international partners. He will send an email with further information.

After ten minutes the meeting continued with *Vital Aniska's request: to allow Belarusian youth players, both boys and girls, to participate in Standard, Rapid and Blitz European Championships*. Everybody expressed personal support to Vital Aniska's request and behavior, but the matter can not be developed without taking into consideration the FMJD rules and the Ukrainian position. In addition to that no information had been received about the Ukrainian Mind Sport Minister's favourable opinion, as recalled by V. Aniska. With regards to the admission of the Belarusian Players belonging to the Youth Categories, but even to the youngest ones, the EDC GA agreed that the request still needs to be analysed further and clarified from IOC and FMJD, also in the next FMJD GA. At present it does not seem to allow such openings.

Regarding the proposals from any Federation, Poland asked to introduce the Under 8 Category in the European Youth Championships. The FMJD and the EDC TD for Youth reminded that the item had already been treated in the last GA. However, and once more, the Participants to the EDC GA expressed their opinion against this introduction (5 against, 2 abstained, 3 in favour), with a proposal for the next FMJD GA to cancel the Under 8 Category from the World Youth Championships.

Then what had been included in the FMJD Agenda had priority regarding the matters suggested by the Federations, as suggested by KNDB. Therefore, the President C.A. Bordini recalled the proposals sent to the FMJD in relation to the GA 2024, provided from FMJD Statutes, but he replied that first they were announced and then they were cancelled, without any clear reason.

Suggestions and objections for the FMJD GA 2024 followed:

- the FMJD membership to TAFISA, an official body of IOC, to clarify that only one is the official World Draughts Federation: the FMJD;
- a list of proposals to amend the FMJD Annexes and Statutes for the parts that are still valuable.

The President said that he will send a gentle remind, with any updates if necessary, asking FMJD to insert them into the Agenda. None of those requests was included in the FMJD GA 2025 Agenda. Vadislavs Vesperis, also acting as FMJD General Secretary, promised he will take care of such matters.

C.A. Bordini reminded that three out of four World Championships were played beyond the European borders and most of players were European. Consequently, they involved a surcharge in travel costs for the European Federations that could be avoided if only they had been held in Europe. T. Tulva took the floor remembering the Estonian availability expressed (too soon for FMJD) to host the last Championship in Estonia. A long and profitable exchange of opinions among most of the participants followed.

Then C.A. Bordini listed the various items in the next FMJD GA 2025 with suggestions and ideas suggested by most of those present, after he thanked everybody for their personal contribution and in the end, he remarked that the main and permanent goal of each Draughts Institution is to support an active development of Draughts in the World, as everybody did during the General Assembly.

At 19.10 (local time), when all the items on the agenda had been exhausted, the meeting came to an end.

The President of the EDC Board

Carlo A. Bordini
