



European Draughts Confederation

Founded in Tallinn on 13.08.1998 – Recognized in Trieste on 16.11.2021

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Executive Board Meeting n.4 – 2026, the twenty-fourth meeting of the Executive Board elected on 05.08.2023.

On Thursday, 28th May, at 19.30, the Executive Board met online by means of Zoom Video Conferencing Application, in the presence of *Carlo A. Bordini* (EDC President - ITA), *Tarmo Tulva* (Vice President and Tournament Director - EST), *Johan Demasure* (Deputy Vice President and Director of Youth and Under 27 Tournaments - BEL), *Jan Zioltkowski* (Tournament Director of Veterans - GER), *Magda Pawlowska* (Technical Director, Responsible for FMJD Calendar - POL), *Rik Keurentjes* (Charman of Athletes, Trainers and Referees Commission - NED), *Feliks Shepel* (Responsible for Draughts - 64 – UKR), *Glib Ushakov* (Responsible for International Marketing - UKR), *Aare Harak* (Auditor – EST) and *Bellita D. Dottor* (General Secretary - ITA).

Ester Van Muijen (Auditor – NED) and Bart Stegeman (Auditor – SLO) were absent.

Agenda:

1. Opening speech by the President;
2. Reading and ratification of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting (n. 3/2026);
3. EDC Annual fee 2026: status (paid and not) and determination;
4. EDC Calendar 2026:
 - 4.1 European Youth Championships 2026;
 - 4.2 Concerning the 1st European Championships Draughts-64 went off in Italy;
 - 4.3 Other and various about the Calendar.
5. Development concerning the getting Swedish Draughts Federation (SDF)
6. Other various and possible evaluations

Regarding item **1. Opening speech by the President**, C.A. Bordini greeted everyone and opened the discussion on item **2. Reading and ratification of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting (n. 3/2026)**. The text was approved without any additions or changes.

As for item **3. EDC Annual fee 2026: status (paid and not) and determination**, the President informed that the Ukrainian and French Federation had regulated their position in terms of fees, while for the Azerbaijani DF the Board accepted that it will pay in cash during the first tournament to come (due to the high costs of payment via bank transfer). He showed his screen to give evidence of his words.

The following are the countries with a National Draughts Federation in good standing with payments of the EDC annual fee 2026: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israeli, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine.

In relation to item **4. EDC Calendar 2026: 4.1 European Youth Championships 2026; 4.2 Concerning the 1st European Championships Draughts-64 went off in Italy; 4.3 Other and various about the Calendar**, and specifically **4.1**, the President asked T. Tulva for refresher information. He replied that everything was in continuous progress and visible in the database developed for that purpose. News will be even more precise and exhaustive during the next meeting, commenting that the registration of Teams was already beyond any expectation. Talking about general costs of events for the sports Teams belonging to different Draughts Federations, a balance between travel costs and accommodation costs is surely favourable and positive, due to the geographic position of the hosting place and its venue.

About **4.2 Concerning the 1st European Championships Draughts-64 went off in Italy**, exactly in Misano Adriatico (Ravenna), C.A. Bordini said that twelve players representing five federations participated in the

event. Despite a reduced number of players and countries, the Championship of that kind was a novelty and so pretty good in its first edition: a very important and new step which keeps developing all the main draughts/checkers in Europe.

The referees involved were efficient, especially the young Main Referee Denijs Vilhelms Krauklis (Latvia) who was impressive for ease, in the management of the tournament, in the quick registration of the updated results, for confidence and care even if only assistant in previous experiences. Even more, the EDC is happy to have entrusted the leadership to such a talented referee in that European Championship. Good assistance was also given by Renzo Rubele (Italy). They both deserve to be taken into consideration in future draughts commitments of higher level, together with the other more experienced referees.

Opening to **4.3 Other and various about the Calendar**, the President confirmed the European Championships of Checkers (Men, Women and Youth) already planned: for example the one scheduled from 13th to 15th November, in Foggia (Italy), as a corollary of the World GAYP Title Match between the present champion Matteo Bernini vs GM Alexander Moiseyev.

For other Championships there were neither changes nor additions.

As for item **5. Development concerning the getting Swedish Draughts Federation (SDF)**, the President informed that he had exchanged an email with Bengt Kvisth of the oncoming Swedish Draughts Federation and he had had a look at their interesting logo. They are planning to run the first Swedish Championship (10x10) during April/May next year. To be welcoming, friendly and sympathetic, after sending the application and Statute as the SDF, he proposed offering them a free annual fee for the remaining months of the current year, and the Board immediately agreed. The Swedish Draughts Federation can become an ordinary Member in 2027, after a formal approval by the General Assembly.

All items are important in a meeting, but all the Board could not wait to have a sincere, honest and delicate discussion on IOC (International Olympic Committee) statement, unanimously decided on 7th May 2026, and that you can read in their official website with the following title *"IOC no longer recommends restrictions on Belarusian athletes' participation"*, that sounds as a clear recommendation to favour the participation of Belarusian players to all sports events without any restriction.

The subtitle of the statement reads as follows: *"The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board (EB) no longer recommends any restrictions on the participation of Belarusian athletes, including teams, in competitions governed by International Federations (IFs) and international sports event organisers. The IOC EB today lifted the recommended conditions of participation for International Federations and international sports event organisers of 28 February 2022 and 28 March 2023 as they relate to Belarus and Belarusian athletes, including the protective measures."*

The IOC also wrote what the reasoning is and why right now: *"As the IOC continues to navigate the ever-increasing complex realities and consequences of the current geopolitical context, including the rising number of wars and conflicts, and amidst growing global instability, it must uphold its mission to preserve a values-based and truly global sporting platform that provides hope to the world."* IOC even clarified that *"the fundamental right of athletes to access sport and compete free from political interference or governmental pressure was confirmed by the IOC Executive Board in September 2025 and reaffirmed at the Olympic Summit in December 2025. The IOC reaffirms that athletes' participation in international competition should not be limited by the actions of their governments, including involvement in a war or conflict."*

C. A. Bordini wanted to give voice to the different opinions of the esteemed people belonging to the Board, aware that such a matter could provoke painful feelings in between the words.

It was noticed that Sport is not political, Belarus is not Russia, and it was taken into consideration also the behavior of the Belarusian Draughts Federation Members in the last four years.

It was also sadly expressed, and supported by some, that the children should not have to be always punished by historical consequences; it was recalled, once more, what happened and still happens in war places, every day, and at the same time it was underlined that the ones who were young Draughts Players at the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine (and haven't played during the last 4 years) are adults today, and they could be punished with restrictions about the age, once again.

After that it was said that analyzing the problem on the Ukrainian viewpoint the sports perspective is very difficult as geopolitics works against Europe, while out of its borders the question is completely different and unreal, and it seems that only Europe should take care of that matter.

The discussion went on and it focused on some shared points:

- Firstly, all the Board Members recalled they are against the war and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, that caused and still leads to so many civil and innocent victims;
- Secondly, the clear agreement that any participation in any kind of tournament must be with flag and anthem restrictions, avoiding any reference to politics;
- Lastly, the clear preference to allow the young players' participation in Draughts tournaments first, and to postpone the adults' one.

All the Board was aware that the matter was and is very hard to deal with and it is up to the FMJD to decide.

In the end, after an involving discussion, the President said that there could be some more time to meditate and try to draft a document in which everyone can partially recognize themselves. After listening to each Member and taking into consideration that EDC is a backbone of FMJD, he added that EDC must be the same proactive and dynamic. The president C.A. Bordini thinks that, in his role, he can and has the duty to draw his own propositional document. He will gather the EDC Board's positions together and will take them to the FMJD Executive Council.

He is hopeful and confident that the delicate and difficult matter will get a reasonably possible solution from the FMJD.

With regards to item **6. Other various and possible evaluations**, no topics were suggested in the end.

The next Board Meeting was set for 30th June, at 19.30, Rome time.

At about 21.00 the President thanked the Members for their time, declaring the online meeting closed.

The President of the EDC Board
Carlo A. Bordini