



Dear Presidents and FIDE Delegates,

On behalf of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Chess Federation we are writing to you regarding the upcoming FIDE General Assembly scheduled for 14 December 2025.

It has come to our attention that a proposal has been submitted to the Assembly requesting the full reinstatement of the russian and belarusian chess federations, including the restoration of their national teams in all FIDE events and the return of their state symbols. We wish to formally express our strong and unequivocal objection to this matter.

The armed aggression against Ukraine continues unabated. Thousands of innocent civilians have been killed, and millions have been displaced. The leadership of the russian chess federation – as well as public figures closely associated with it – openly support the actions of the russian government and glorify the ongoing war. These actions stand in direct contradiction to the fundamental principles and values that FIDE and the international sports community uphold.

Importantly, FIDE itself has already taken principled decisions in response to russia's war against Ukraine: in February 2022 FIDE decided that no russian or belarusian national flag be displayed and no anthem be played at FIDE-rated events, and in March 2022 FIDE suspended the national teams of russia and belarus from official FIDE tournaments until further notice. The fundamental circumstances that led to these measures have not changed.

We also note the relevance of Olympic Movement guidance. Moreover, current IOC recommendations on the participation of russian and belarusian athletes have not changed (<https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/News/2023/03/Participation-for-Individual-Neutral-Athletes-Personnel-with-a-Russian-or-Belarusian-Passport.pdf> and <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-issues-recommendations-for-international-federations-and-international-sports-event-organisers>). The IOC maintains restrictions on national teams, national symbols, and state representation. Reinstating the russian and belarusian team participation and national symbols would be in direct contradiction to these existing IOC guidelines, which FIDE has committed to follow.

We also draw your attention to the official statement signed by 34 countries and the European Commission in response to the IPC General Assembly decision of 27 September 2025, which explicitly condemns the lifting of restrictions on Russia and Belarus and reaffirms that state-linked teams and official national representation must



remain prohibited while the russian aggression against Ukraine continues (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-the-international-paralympic-committees-announcement-of-27-september-2025-on-the-russian-and-belarusian-national-paralympic-committees>). This statement underscores that attempts to reinterpret the IPC decision as broad international approval are misplaced and misleading.

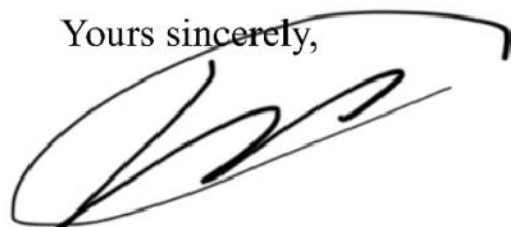
Additionally, claims that there is a wider global trend toward reinstating russian and belarusian teams are factually incorrect. Only a small minority of international federations have permitted russian and belarusian teams to return, typically under highly specific and limited conditions. By contrast, the vast majority of major sports organizations – including FIFA, UEFA, the International Tennis Federation (ITF), World Athletics, and many others – continue to prohibit russian and belarusian national teams and symbols. These federations, responsible for some of the world’s largest sporting events, maintain full restrictions because the causes and circumstances that led to the sanctions remain unchanged.

In this context, any consideration of lifting existing restrictions would not only be profoundly inappropriate but would also send a deeply troubling political signal. It would compromise the moral integrity of FIDE, undermine its commitment to human rights and fair play, and disregard the suffering inflicted upon the Ukrainian people every single day.

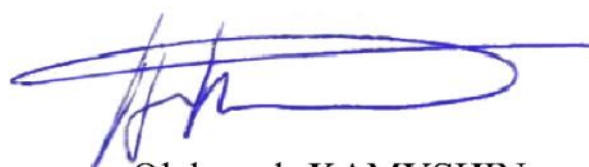
We therefore respectfully urge the Assembly to reject the proposal entirely and remove it from the agenda, as its discussion alone risks further marginalizing FIDE and damaging trust in its governance.

We count on the solidarity and principles of the global chess community in upholding justice, ethical standards, and responsibility during this critical moment.

Yours sincerely,



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