



**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ECHECS**

Tallinn, 08th November 2007

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To: Executive Director

Dear David Jarrett

Thank you for your request you sent regarding the accusations for discrimination of non-Estonian chess players from family Golubenko.

I hereby like to confirm you that the public letter "STOP THE WAR ON OUR CHILDREN" which was sent to FIDE contains nothing but lies and therefore the Board of the Estonian Chess Federation is discussing seriously to start a lawsuit against the persons who wrote this letter. The goal of this above-mentioned letter is to agitate hostility between chess players who have different nationalities and to damage the image of Estonian state and the image of Estonian Chess Federation.

We would like to reply to your request with letting you know that everybody who lives in Estonia can participate in sports activities disregarding their nationality, citizenship, religion etc. Every chess player can participate in the tournaments organized in Estonia, including at the Estonian championships, at FIDE rating tournaments, at Estonian championship for teams, at Estonian championships for youth in case they get qualified to these tournaments or in case they have the required rating. There are no restrictions in participating the tournaments and in the sport competition in case participation is in accordance to the guidelines, regulations and accordance to what is seen as good norms. The authors of that letter confirm that their children are participating at the Estonian championships, so where is the discrimination?

The Estonian Chess Federation and the state of Estonia and the local governments are supporting the sport and club activities disregarding the nationality and citizenship of the members.

Among the chess players in Estonia, there are approximately 2/3 of the players that do not have Estonian as their mother tongue, but that has never hindered them to playing chess and representing Estonia at the title tournaments. There are lots of non-Estonians at the FIDE rating list who also represent Estonia at the international title tournaments (for example, at the European championship for the teams on Crete there were Tatjana Fomina, Monika Tsõganova and Viktoria Bashkite who represented Estonian women's team and all of them are not Estonians). At the European Championship for youth in 2007 in Croatia, there were 14 children in Estonian delegation and 9 of them have Russian as mother tongue.

The Estonian Chess Federation is also equally servicing everybody regarding ratings, giving titles and applying international titles to FIDE. We would like to inform you that we simply could not help Valentina Golubenko receiving WIM and WGM title, because her parents did not send necessary information to Estonian Chess Federation, but directly to FIDE. During the FIDE Congress in Torino, the Estonian Chess Federation sent an additional letter to FIDE to give Valentina Golubenko WIM title.

Regarding the citizenship, there is only one limit according to the Act of Sports which is that on the international title championships only Estonian citizens can represent Estonia, the citizens of other states cannot do that. At the same time, everybody who is under 18 years old and do not have Estonian citizenship and have not applied for citizenship of another state, can represent Estonia as well.

In order to avoid discrimination of children, there is a valid law of citizenship, which states that every child born after 1992 in Estonia can receive automatically the citizenship of Estonia and they can get it disregarding what citizenship the child parents have. But in case parents want to choose the citizenship for their children themselves, choosing the citizenship of another state for their children, then later, if the child applies for the Estonian citizenship, the child has to give specific exams when applying the Estonian citizenship (including for example language exam).

The authors of the above mentioned letter sent to FIDE have chosen the citizenship of another state to their child. At the same time this child could have received the Estonian citizenship automatically.

In the letter, there are some serious accusations towards the Estonian Chess Federation, even having a war against children, then please send us the exact facts these accusations sent by the Golubenko family are based on.

We sincerely hope that these explanations and reasons from our side are acceptable for that FIDE Congress could finally end this case and end the serious damaging of the Estonian Chess Federation.

Looking forward to fruitful cooperation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Olde', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Hendrik Olde  
Chairman of the Board ECF