



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee

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Moscow

Dear participants and guests of the 7th International Youth Team Tournament “Chess Stars of the Baltic Sea Region”!

I welcome you to the ancient Narva at the first tournament of the series of events which will take place in Estonia during the next year and which are dedicated to the 100-year Anniversary of the legendary Paul Keres. The Chess Federation of Estonia has applied to FIDE to name the next year the year of Paul Keres, and FIDE has agreed.

The prominent Estonian chess player Paul Keres happened to live in a difficult historical period, and he was on top of his chess player's form when the World War II started. Perhaps, it was the War that prevented him from winning the chess crown. But he came down to the history of chess as one of the strongest grandmasters of all times and a true gentleman behind a chessboard. Paul Keres was the only chess player whose image was placed on a banknote by his ever thankful compatriots.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Estonian Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Culture of the Estonian Republic for their support of the “Paul Keres 100” Chess Festival. It is my pleasure to know that the Bank of Estonia and the Estonian Post have joined the festival and the commemorative coin and a post stamp will be issued on the occasion of this celebration. I thank cordially our respected sponsors, volunteers and media representatives.

And I am certainly grateful to the Estonian Chess Federation and personally to its President Mr. Andrei Korobeinik for the giant work already done and still to be done within the rich festival schedule.

The present tournament has assembled the teams from five neighbor countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Russia. Each team embraces ten players of

U18, U16, U14, U12 and U10 age groups. The hosting country is represented by two teams: one consists of the champions of Estonia of respective age groups and the other is the team of Narva city.

I wish the participants the best of spot spirit! Let your moves be striking and you games be brilliant! And let the strongest win!

Gens una sumus! We are one family!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Ilyumzhinov', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov
FIDE President