



**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES ECHECS FRANCOPHONES**

**86<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress Abu Dhabi 2015 - September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

Mr. Chairman Werner Stubenvoll and members of the Fide Qualification Commission,

**Foreword**

First it is useful to remind everyone that the goal of our association is to gather together individuals from the world over who have in common both chess and the French language. Passion for the game and the language is the link without which they would never have met.

We aim to promote and facilitate utilization of the French language in the chess world by laying the foundations of concrete collaboration within the francophone community, building partnerships, fostering relationships and providing advantages and privileges for our members who are the first beneficiaries.

Our association is composed of the chess federation of states and governments that are a member of the International Organisation of La Francophonie or of entities representing chess players who speak French.

At the end of 2012, when I was elected President of AIDEF as a successor to Nouredine Tabbane, we were 9 members only. Today, thanks to the association's dynamism, we have 38 members, including 33 national federations.

The current list of members is posted on our website:

<http://aidef.ffechecs.org/spip.php?article27>

Our Executive Board is composed of the following 8 members :

President: Patrick VAN HOOLANDT - Monaco

1° Vice-president: Mohamed ZOUAOUI - Tunisia (ex-president of the Tunisian federation)

2° Vice-president: Ahmed TALEB MOHAMED - Mauritania (vice-president of the

Mauritanian federation)

3° Vice-president: Yves RAKOTOMAHARO - Madagascar (president of the Madagascan federation)

General Secretary: Frederic KOUEVI - Togo (president of the Togolese federation)

Treasurer: Roland AKHRASS - Lebanon (vice-president of the Lebanese federation)

Technical Director: Raymond VAN MELSEN - Belgium (president of the francophone Belgium federation)

International Relations Bernard LABADIE - Canada (president of the Québec chess federation)

It is of the utmost importance to us that our actions be backed by FIDE.

It is also crucial to let it be known that, contrary to general beliefs, the French language will be more and more spoken throughout the world. Ever since the decolonization of Africa, French has become the common language used by most African states. According to a 2014 report by the International Organisation of La Francophonie, there are 274 millions French speaking people in the world and 116 millions more are learning it.

French is the second more taught language after English. More than half (55%) of these Francophones live in Africa. Thanks to demographic trends in Congo, Cameroun and Ivory Coast, in 2050 these numbers should rise to 85% for 750 millions people.

### **Request concerning individuals championships of French Speaking Countries**

« Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones » is AIDEF major yearly event. The first one was held in 2013 in Marrakech, Morocco, the second one in 2014 in Beirut, Lebanon and the third, recently in July in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Every year members get together in a friendly atmosphere competing to win the title of individual Francophone champion men and woman. Seminars and other side events are also organized.

Acknowledging the upward and dynamic trend followed by AIDEF as well as its growing share in the chess world, his Excellency Kirsan Ilyumzhinov is fully supporting our association both morally and financially.

Moral support: in Beirut, his staff and himself were honouring us by being present at the closing ceremony. Again in Tromsø, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov attended the closing cocktail following AIDEF's general assembly, delivering his last candidate speech and openly thanking AIDEF stressing that « it is of critical importance for me to feel your support and encouragement ».

Financial support: the organization of Beirut 2014 benefited from Kirsan Ilyumzhinov strong backing. While in Tromsø, in his cocktail's speech, he promised the same support for the 2015 championship. Not only this commitment permitted AIDEF to offer interesting prizes, but facilitated inviting one player per federation as well contributing to travel expenses for the less endowed federations.

AIDEF's individual championships grow up every year :

3 candidates competed in 2015 : Egypt, Tunisia and Québec (Canada). Thanks to the best bid, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was unanimously awarded to Montréal.

From a purely chess point of view, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the event was a great success, beating all previous records with a total of 219 players (31 titled, 11 IGM).

You can consult the complete ranking of the last 2 editions via the following links :

2014 : <http://www.chess-results.com/tnr137209.aspx?lan=20&art=1&wi=821>

2015 : <http://www.chess-results.com/tnr161436.aspx?lan=20&art=1&rd=9&flag=30&wi=821>

Taking these facts into account, AIDEF is soliciting the FIDE Qualification Commission so that a formal decision is made with regards to :

- Listing of this event in FIDE's official calendar.
- Automatic GM and WGM norm to the event's winner.

Considering the fact that I discussed it with Mr. Geoffrey Borg during his coming in Monaco a few weeks ago and with Mr. Georgios Makropoulos yesterday evening and that these two senior officials of FIDE expressed a positive opinion, considering also that this request is one of our four proposals we sent before the deadline to be included in the agenda for this Fide Executive Board of Abu Dhabi (see attached file), I ask you, as possible, to be willing to express your decision so that it can be put in the agenda of the Executive Board of September 7th, 2015.

Mr. Chairman Werner Stubenvoll and members of the Fide Qualification Commission, I am looking forward to see you again soon.

Your faithfully,  
Best Regards

Patrick Van Hoolandt,  
AIDEF,s President

