

Athens, 17th September 2007

To: The President
Estonian Chess Federation

Dear Mr President,

In past years the FIDE Presidential Board has been made aware of some internal conflicts in Estonian Chess, concerning non-Estonian citizens' rights to represent Estonia in International Championships and other related issues.

The FIDE Presidential Board in its meeting in Mexico City, took note of the requirements of the Estonian Sports Law § 8 where there is a precondition that to represent Estonia you must be an Estonian citizen. FIDE fully recognizes that it is within the jurisdiction of Estonia to make and practice Sports laws and according to well established practice FIDE does not in any way intervene in internal affairs.

However, the FIDE Presidential Board expressed its concern on some other chess related issues in Estonia and we would kindly ask you to clarify the position and established practice regarding the following points:

- 1) Regardless of nationality and citizenship, do all players living in Estonia, have the same right to play chess, be members of chess clubs, participate in chess tournaments?
- 2) Regardless of nationality and citizenship, do all players living in Estonia have the right to participate in the National Championships if qualified, and if they win are they recognized as National Champions of Estonia?
- 3) Regardless of nationality and citizenship, do all players living in Estonia have the right to participate in FIDE rated Tournaments?
- 4) Regardless of nationality and citizenship, do all players living in Estonia have the right to play in Estonian Team events?
- 5) Regardless of nationality and citizenship, will the Estonian Chess Federation provide similar services to all players regarding submission of rating reports and title norm applications?

The FIDE Presidential Board awaits your answer on the above questions and appreciates your cooperation in this respect. The Board would also like to receive factual information as to what are the exact requirements for a foreigner living in Estonia to obtain Estonian citizenship.

We are looking forward to your kind reply in due time before the Executive Board meeting in Antalya, Turkey 10-17 November 2007.

Best regards

David Jarrett
FIDE Executive Director

Morten Sand
FIDE Legal Advisor