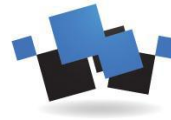


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№ 62

25.04.2025

TO:
FIDE Council and
FIDE Management Board
office@fide.com

Re: The CFR's Continued Violations of the FIDE Charter and EDC Code

Dear Members of the FIDE Council and FIDE Management Board,

The Ukrainian Chess Federation ("UCF") writes to follow up on its letter dated 13 February 2025 in which it brought FIDE's attention to the fact that the Chess Federation of Russia ("CFR") advertised and organized a screening of a pro-war film in violation of both the FIDE Charter and the Ethics and Disciplinary Code ("EDC Code").

As explained in that letter, the CFR had invited "all chess fans over 18 years old" to its Moscow headquarters, where it was screening the film titled "At the Edge of the Abyss." This film is Russia's pro-war propaganda, purporting to legitimize Russia's illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and its continued occupation of Ukrainian territory. By hosting this event, the CFR is perpetuating a harmful narrative that celebrates Russia's invasion, and further aggravating relations between the CFR and UCF. This conduct, as explained, is inconsistent with the FIDE Charter and the EDC Code.

The UCF was disappointed that neither the FIDE Council nor Management Board took any action or commented on this event before the film was screened, despite the UCF's request to take remedial action, which remains unanswered to date.¹

Since then, the CFR's efforts to cement this offensive narrative have only grown. On 21 February 2025, the CFR organized a screening of the same film in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia, making it clear this screening was an "initiative of the CFR President Andrey Filatov."² Worse still, on 3 April 2025 the CFR hosted a screening of the same film in Donetsk—a major

¹ See Appendix 1 (translation of press release on the CFR website, confirming that "[o]n February 17, the film ["At the Edge of the Abyss"] was shown at the Central House of Chess Players").

² Appendix 2.

Ukrainian city occupied by Russia.³ The CFR has also openly invited “all regional chess federations to organize a screening of this film in their regions.”⁴

Beyond the repeated screening of this film, the CFR has continued to hold chess tournaments in occupied Ukrainian territory in direct violation of the EDC Appeal Chamber’s decision of 12 September 2024.⁵ The Appeal Chamber found that: “[b]y inclusion of the regional chess federations in the occupied territories as CFR members, and by the organisation of chess events in the territories of the relevant regional chess federations which are recognised in the CFR rating system, the CFR violates the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the UCF.”⁶ That finding stands firm and has not been appealed. The CFR, however, continues to do precisely what the Chamber condemned.

For instance, in January 2025, the CFR hosted a chess tournament in the occupied Ukrainian city of Sevastopol, in Crimea.⁷ In March 2025 it hosted the Luhansk People’s Republic Championship in the occupied Luhansk Oblast of Ukraine,⁸ the “White Rook” and “Debut” competitions in the occupied city of Luhansk,⁹ as well as a tournament in Sevastopol celebrating the “reunification [occupation] of Crimea with Russia”.¹⁰ Soon after, in Sevastopol, the CFR hosted a tournament dedicated to Andrei Paliy (a Russian naval officer who took part in the siege of the Ukrainian city of Mariupol in 2022).¹¹ In April, the CFR held rapid and blitz tournaments in the same place.¹²

The CFR has also established several chess schools of the Russian Military Historical Society in occupied Ukrainian territory,¹³ and it openly announced its plans to host additional

³ Appendix 1 (translation of press release on the CFR website, reporting that “On Thursday, April 3, the Central City Library of Donetsk hosted a film screening of Maxim Fadeev’s documentary film ‘At the Edge of the Abyss’ for members of the Donetsk City Chess and Draughts Club and library readers.”).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Appendix 3 (Case No: 11/2023(A): Alleged Violation of the Fide Charter and the EDC Code Related to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine), ¶¶ 21.19-21.20, 22.4.

⁶ Appendix 3 (Case No: 11/2023(A): Alleged Violation of the Fide Charter and the EDC Code Related to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine), ¶ 21.20.

⁷ Appendix 4 (translation of press release on the CFR website).

⁸ Appendix 5.

⁹ Appendix 6.

¹⁰ Appendix 7.

¹¹ Appendix 8.

¹² Appendix 9.

¹³ Appendix 10.

events in occupied Ukrainian territory in the coming months. It has, for instance, announced plans to hold tournaments and events in occupied Crimea during July and August 2025.¹⁴

The CFR is also coopting Ukrainian chess players from occupied Ukrainian territory into CFR events in Russia. It has, for instance, incorporated Crimean players into the Russian Children's Blitz Championship and the Russian Chess Composition Championship of January 2025,¹⁵ the Southern Federal District Blitz Championship of March 2025,¹⁶ and the women's championship of the Southern Federal District of April 2025.¹⁷

The FIDE must not continue to condone this misconduct by the CFR to the detriment of the UCF, its members, and the wider chess community. Accordingly, we respectfully reiterate our request that the FIDE President or another appropriate representative of FIDE Council or its Management Board promptly take remedial action against the CFR consistent with Articles 10.6 to 10.10 of the EDC Code, directing that the CFR immediately cease to carry out activities in occupied Ukrainian territory and involving chess players from occupied Ukrainian territory.¹⁸

Thank you for your attention to this matter, which is of critical importance to the UCF.

Sincerely,
UCF President

Oleksandr KAMYSHIN



Enclosed: Appendices 1 to 15.

¹⁴ Appendix 11.

¹⁵ Appendices 12 and 13.

¹⁶ Appendix 14.

¹⁷ Appendix 15.

¹⁸ The UCF does not at this stage request referral of this matter to the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission, but reserves its right to raise this matter directly with the EDC at a later stage, as well as any other complaints associated with any and all violations of the FIDE Charter and EDC Code by the CFR.