



ECU EDU  
COMMISSION SURVEY  
ON CIS 2015/16



STAVROULA  
TSOLAKIDOU  
CARRIES  
OLYMPIC FLAME



ECU PRESIDENT  
OPENS FIDE  
WOMEN'S GRAND  
PRIX IN BATUMI



MAGNUS  
CARLSEN WINS  
ALTIBOX  
NORWAY CHESS

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



**ISRAEL & RUSSIA WIN EUROPEAN SENIOR  
TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ZISKA HELGI DAM NEW EUROPEAN SMALL  
NATIONS CHAMPION**

International Master Ziska Helgi Dam (2542) from Faroe Islands became the winner of the 2nd European Small Nations Individual Chess Championship 2016 and qualified for the World Cup 2017!

Ziska finished the tournament with 9.5 points out of 11, by defeating IM Kelires Andreas (CYP 2466) in the last round.

Second place went to GM GM Oscar De La Riva (2494) from Andorra with 9 points, and IM Michael Wiedenkiller (2451) from Luxembourg came third.

### [Full Standings](#)



The Championship was held in Luxembourg City/Luxembourg, 2-10 April 2016 in the Centre sociétaire et sportif Gare at 29 rue de Strasbourg.

The event was 11 round Round Robin, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move one.

The Chief Arbiter of the tournament was FA Olivier Jeitz, with IA Rene Recking and Claude Birtz as Deputies.



The European Chess Union was represented by Mr. Finnbjorn Vang, ECU Vice President. Mr. Paris Klerides, President of FIDE Zone 1.10 was also present during the Championship.

### [Official Website](#)

Photos by Fiona Steil-Antoni

## Israel and Russia win European Senior Team Championship 2016

Team of Israel, in category 50+ and Russia, in category 65+ are the new European Senior Team Champions for 2016!

Both teams finished the tournament undefeated, with maximum score.

In category 50+ Isreal was leading from the very beggining, and after passing the biggest test in the 5th round – Italy, they finished the tournament smoothly.

Second place went to Italy with 11 match points, and Hart of Finland came third with 10 match points.

The only women’s team in the whole competition was Russia Women in 50+ category, who eventually finished 4th with 8 match points.

Senior 50+ Final Ranking



In the category 65+ Russia convincingly won the event with the perfect score, with only one minimum victory of 2.5-1.5 against the runner-up Israel.

Silver medal went to Israel with 16 match points, while Switzerland got bronze with 12 match points.

Senior 65+ Final Ranking



The ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou was present at the closing ceremony before the European Chess Union and rewarded the winners with medals and cups.

The organizer also prepared prizes for the best players per board in each category, which were also handed by Mr. Tsorbatzoglou.



The European Senior Team Chess Championship 2016 was held in Halkidiki/Greece, 18-28 april 16 in the hotel Anthemus Sea.

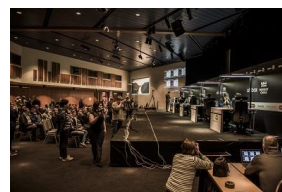
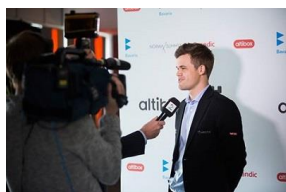
Official Website

Photos by Julian Preda

## Magnus Carlsen wins Norway Chess 2016

World Champion Magnus Carlsen became the winner of Altibox Norway Chess 2016, which was held in Stavanger/Norway, 18-30 April, 2016.

Carlsen finished the event with 6/9 after defeating Pavel Eljanov in the last round, and finally managed to triumph in the homeland, to the delight of the home crowd.



Levon Aronian finished sole second with 5.5 points, while Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik tied for the third place with 5 points.

Photos by Altibox Norway Chess/Joachim Steinbru

[Official Website](#)

## Stavroula Tsolakidou carries Olympic flame in Kavala

Greek World Chess Champion U16 WGM Stavroula Tsolakidou was the last to carry the Olympic flame and lighting the circle in her home city of Kavala.



The Olympic flame travels from the Ancient Olympia to Rio Brazil. The city of Kavala chooses the young chess Champion as the honoured athlete.

[More information](#)

## ECU NEWS

### ECU President opens FIDE Women's Grand Prix in Batumi

The third stage of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix series 2015-2016 was officially opened on April 19th in Batumi/Georgia.

The opening ceremony was attended by the players, the President of the Georgian Chess Federation Giorgi Giorgadze, the ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the Head of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Archil Khabadze, the Minister of Education,

Culture and Sport of the Autonomous Republic Adjara, Georgiy Tavamaishvili, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Avtandil Beridze, the Minister of Finance of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, David Baladze, former Women's World Champion and Chairman of the Appeals Committee Nona Gaprindashvili and Chief Arbiter Takis Nikolopoulos.



The President of ECU Zurab Azmaiparashvili on behalf of FIDE thanked the Georgian Chess Federation for the organization of the third stage of Women's Grand Prix.

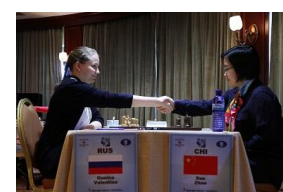
“The Georgian Chess Federation is one the most active federations which always helps FIDE to organize the international chess events. It's not surprising that we have Women's Grand Prix tournament in Georgia as we have important traditions and it's well known that the crown of the Women's World Champions was held by Georgian players Nona Gaprindashvili and Maya Chiburdanidze for 29 years”, said Mr. Azmaiparashvili.



The ECU President made the first symbolic move in the game of the first round between Lela Javakhishvili and Alexandra Kosteniuk and officially started the event.

Russian Grandmaster Valentina Gunina (2497) became the winner of the tournament with 7.5 points. GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (RUS 2557) came second with 6.5, while third place went to IM Nino Batsiashvili (GEO 2476).

### [Final Standings](#)



The Grand Prix was held in Tbilisi/Georgia from 19th April to 2nd May 2016. The organizer of the tournament was the Georgian Chess Federation, while the general sponsor of the event was SOCAR Energy Georgia.

### [Official Website](#)

Photos by A. Karlovich

## ECU EDU Commission Survey on CiS 2015/16

The Education Commission of the European Chess Union (ECU) was established in 2014. Our role is to develop and promote chess as part of children's education. We seek to make a strong and successful programme in each member country by sharing knowledge and resources and encouraging international co-operation. We contribute to public discussion and lobby for chess.

We must support our arguments with evidence. Ultimately, we seek to obtain quantitative data on the number of schools offering chess and the number of children learning chess in each country. This will enable us to measure progress and report developments to the federations and educational funding bodies.

We decided to conduct a survey of the 54 member federations from summer 2015. The purpose is to gather information about the situation in each country. Basic information about the federations was also gathered to provide some context. This is the first time that the ECU has conducted a survey (FIDE conducted a survey previously) and we have learned a great deal from the process.

In what follows, we shall use "CiS" to refer to the "Chess in Schools" movement. We found that chess is widely regarded as important for children's education, particularly in primary school (up to the age of 11). CiS is being implemented in every ECU country.

We have received 33 completed questionnaires with 21 still to come i.e we have 61% of the total. We are grateful to the national chess federations and the CiS organisations which made the effort to respond. Some important countries are missing but we hope to obtain them all eventually.

CiS is largely a grass roots movement with initiatives often led by enterprising individuals. The federations may not be aware of some CiS projects within their own territories. Some CiS projects were established on a private commercial basis and may be unknown to the federations. We aim to capture the main projects but there will inevitably be some gaps within each country.

[More info on ECU EDU Commission Survey on CiS 2015/16](#)

## EUSA Conference in Wroclaw

European University Sports Association (EUSA) Conference took place in Wroclaw, Poland from 7th to 9th April 2016.

EUSA reflected on the successful past edition of the European Universities Championships and the upcoming European Universities Games, starting with Zagreb-Rijeka in July 2016 and Coimbra two years later. The members also discussed the European Universities Championships 2017, which will bring even better services to the European student athletes and event's organizers.

At the Conference, the European Chess Union was represented in the highest Academic level by Dr. Natalia Pochinok (RUS).



Mrs Pochinok is the Rector of Russian State Social University and the President of National Student Chess League in Russia.

At the Conference she presented new conception of chess club network as a solid platform for chess education systematic approach throughout schools, universities, employers and the elderly.

To facilitate chess among European students, Dr. Pochinok suggested organizing the Online European Universities Chess Championship in 2016 among amateurs, with the final in Moscow, Russia.

[Read more](#)

## Live games of European Championships on the ECU website

European Chess Union is proud to announce the start of broadcasting live games on the ECU website.

All the live games of the official European Championships will now be available on the official website of the European Chess Union, in the [LIVE page](#).

The [results and pairings](#) of each Championship are also available on the ECU website.



The ECU offers a full service for all chess fans, along with creating the necessary tools to promote our commercial sponsors and partners.

European Chess Union grows in all fields and re-positions its profile in the sports market.





## Solutions from the NL March 2016:

### Position #1

Mate in 13 by Fritz 1975

1. h4 Ka5 2. h5 b4 3. h6 Ka4 4. h7 b5 5. h8=N! (5. h8=Qa5 No way to avoid stalemate except Qh2 which loses anyway ) 5... a5 6. Ng6 f7g6 7. f7 g5 8. f8=N! g4 9. Ne6 dxe6 10. d7 e5 11. d8= Ne4 12. Nb7 (12. Ne6 Is just as good ) 12... e3 13. Nc5#

### Position #2

Mate in 13 Houdini 3 Pro w32 vs. Doe, John Blitz 5m | 1-0

1. Qc8 Kg8 2. Bc7 Qxc8 3. gxf7+ Kh8 4. Be5 Qc5 5. Bb2 Nc7 6. Ba1 a4 7. Bb2 a3 8. Ba1 a2 9. Bb2 a1=R 10. Bxa1 Qc3+ 11. Bxc3 Nd5+ 12. Ke6+ Nxc3 13. f8=Q#

### Position #3

Mate in 14

1. Ne4+Kf5 Best move (1... Kf4??2. Qxg5#) 2. Rf6+ After this move, every black move is forced. 2... Ke5 Best move, 2...exf6 loses immediately (2... exf6??3. Qxf6#) 3. Rh6+Kf5 4. Ng3+Kf4 5. Nxf5+Kf5 6. Rf6+Ke5 (6... exf6??7. Qxf6#)

7. Rxb6+ White sees that he needs to remove the b6 pawn in order to play 13. Rxc5+ and force black to take with the rook, which then allows 14. d4#. If the b6 pawn isn't removed first, after 13... bxc5 the d4 square is now defended. 7... Kf5 8. Rf6+Ke5 9. Rc6+Kf5 10. Ng3+Kf4 11. Ne2+Kf5 12. Qg6+Ke5 13. Rxc5+! Rxc5 14. d4#

### Position #4

Mate in 14

1. Kc5 Bg1 2. Kb6 Bh2 3. Ka7 Bg1 4. Ka8 Bh2 5. Kb8 Bg1 6. Kc7 Bh2 7. Kd8 Bg1 8. Ke7 Bh2 9. Kf8 Bg1 10. Kg7 Bh2 11. Kh6 Bg1 12. Kg5 bh2 13. Kh4 Bg1 14. Rg3#

## They told about chess...

“Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation.”

Machgielis Max Euwe, PhD, Dutch chess Grandmaster, mathematician, and author, the 5th World Chess Champion, and former President of FIDE



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

## ECU EVENTS

### EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

The European Individual Chess Championship 2016 will be held in Gjakova (Kosovo\*), 11 - 24 May 2016, at the “Pashtriku” Hotel.

The organizer of the competition is Gjakova Municipality together with the Kosovo Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.



The European Individual Chess Championship is open to all players representing Chess Federations, which comprise the ECU (FIDE zones 1.1 to 1.10).

The championship will be played in 11-round Swiss system, with the rate of play 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The prize fund is 120 000 EUR, including main prizes and special prizes for the best performance and best senior players.

The European Individual Championship 2016 is a qualification event for the next World Cup.

[Registered players](#)

[Official Website](#)

\*According to the ECU Statues any mention of Kosovo followed with an asterisk with reference to UN Resolution 1244, without prejudice of status

### EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

Romanian Chess Federation and “Mind Games & Events” Sports Association, under the auspices of European Chess Union organize European Individual Women’s Chess Championship 2016, which will be held in Mamaia/Romania, from 26th May to 8th June, 2016.

The 17th European Individual Women's Chess Championship is open to all players representing the Chess Federations which comprise the European Chess Union (FIDE zones 1.1 to 1.10), regardless of their title or rating.



The Championship is qualification event for the next World Women Championship. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 14 players will qualify.

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss system in accordance with the time control 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment per move, starting from move one.

The total prize fund is 60.000 EUR, with the first prize of 11.000 EUR.

[Registered players](#)

[Official Website](#)

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

TRIANDRIA OPEN 2016	3 - 9 April	Thessaloniki/ Greece	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
CETINJE OPEN 2016	4 - 10 April	Cetinje/Montenegro	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
LIMBURG OPEN 2016	13 - 16 April	Maastricht /Netherlands	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
SHAMKIR CHESS 2016	26 May- 4 June	Shamkir/Azerbaijan	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
ZALAKAROS OPEN 2016	27 May - 4 June	Zalakaros/Hungary	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
NEZHMETDINOV CUP 2016	31 May - 8 June	Kazan/Russia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>