

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS COMPOSITION UNION

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GENS UNA SUMUS!

To the President of the FIDE

Re: The organisation of world chess composition

Dear President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov,

We should like to ask for your help on a matter of some urgency.

The PCCC (the Permanent Commission of the FIDE for Chess Composition) has existed since 1956, promoting composition and solving throughout the world, organising official international tourneys, publishing collections of the best compositions from each three-year period, awarding international composing and solving titles, and dealing with other matters of interest to problemists and endgame study enthusiasts. At our annual congress, the official World Championships in the Solving of Chess Problems (WCSC) are held, for both individuals and national teams.

For more than 50 years we have enjoyed complete autonomy within the FIDE. Our relations with the FIDE have been characterised by uninterrupted mutual respect and trust. We proudly grant and hold FIDE titles, the contests which we organise are FIDE tournaments and FIDE World Championships, and our periodical anthologies of chess composition are the FIDE Albums.

At present 40 countries are full members of our organisation. Every four years, the delegates of these countries elect among themselves a Presidium consisting of one President and three Vice-Presidents. Our Statutes lay down that it is our President who is responsible for all contacts with the FIDE.

In March 2009, however, the FIDE Secretary Mr Leong informed us that the PCCC is no longer a part of the FIDE but instead is considered an independent international organisation, affiliated to the FIDE.

Consequently, at our congress in Rio de Janeiro (October 2009) the delegates accepted provisional new Statutes, with modifications resulting from our independent status. Our provisional new name is ICCU (International Chess Composition Union). Definite new Statutes and a final name are expected to be decided on at our next congress (Crete 2010).

Although the FIDE in effect obliged us to create an independent organisation, we did not (and still do not) see any real need for this change. That is because the arrangement established between us, namely our status as an autonomous permanent commission within the FIDE, served everyone so well for more than 50 years.

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The ICCU wishes to keep close contacts with the FIDE, with cooperation on matters of common interest.

Lately, however, we have learned of new steps which may jeopardise our friendly relations. Mr Selivanov (FIDE VP) has informed us that these steps may include the creation of another Commission for Chess Composition within the FIDE, and that this will be decided upon at the meeting of the FIDE Presidential Board in January 2010. We find it hard to believe that the FIDE would go along with such a step, for it would convey an undeniable message of mistrust.

This unilateral step could only mean a division in the peaceful world of chess composition, with obviously negative implications, perhaps leading to the existence of several rival international organisations.

It is clearly in the interest of both the FIDE and the ICCU to avoid any possible split among chess composers as well as solvers, and so we see an urgent need for a dialogue between us, to find a constructive way to prevent this.

Of course, to be effective, this dialogue should be carried out by participants who basically trust each other. We ask you, Mr President, to join us in setting up such a dialogue.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Uri Avner, President of the ICCU (FIDE IGM of Chess Composition), Israel

Klaus Wenda, Honorary President (FIDE IM), Austria

Bedrich Formanek, Honorary President (FIDE Master), Slovakia

John Rice, Honorary President (FIDE IM), U.K.

Hannu Harkola, 1st Vice President, Finland

Marko Klasinc, 2nd Vice President (FIDE Master), Slovenia

Kjell Widlert, 3rd Vice President (FIDE IM), Sweden