

Report on the ECSC 2026

The 20th Chess Olympiad, held in Skopje in 1972, featured the first Olympic meeting of problemists, including a solving tourney directed by my father Gligor Denkovski. Half a century later, it was an honour for me to take on such a role at another major gathering of chess problemists, held at Hotel Kontinental – one of the few surviving artefacts of Skopje's history as an Olympic city.

This year's ECSC was dominated by Danila Pavlov and Ural Khasanov, who finished first and second, respectively, in both the open tourney and the championship. In the open tourney, they were followed by Maksim Kharitonov, while Kacper Piorun took bronze in the championship.

In the team contest, Poland delivered a strong performance and finished first, ahead of Lithuania and Ukraine. Khasanov also finished first among juniors, Jorma Paavilainen was the top senior, and junior competitor Ekaterina Shestakova won the unofficial women's category.

Ivan Denkovski, 19th ECSC Director