



Association  
Internationale  
Des Echecs  
Francophones

## **Bakou 2016 – Antalya 2017**

### **Activity Report**

#### **Baku, Azerbaijan, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The General Assembly of AIDEF («Francophone Chess Association») was held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmount Hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Olympiads and the 87<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress.

The President's Report, those by Members of the Executive Board as well as year's end Financial Accounts were unanimously approved. An update of AIDEF's Membership was given and minor statutes items were modified.

Of 35 voting Members, 31 were attending, 29 of these voting in favour of the President and the 14 Executive Board Members to be elected for the next 4 years.

The General Assembly unanimously approved that AIDEF's English designation be the «Francophone Chess Association».

During the 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, AIDEF filed an official request to FIDE so that the 2017 5<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters be held in a Sub-Saharan African country.

The «Qualification Commission» approved that AIDEF be allowed the same privileges than Commonwealth Chess Association and the Iberoamerican Chess Federation (FIBDA) for norms and titles grants.

#### **Menton – France, from 2016 October 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.**

256 players representing 24 citizenships took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters. There were 13 Grandmasters, 13 International Masters and 7 FIDE Masters. The Montréal record from the previous year was beaten.

Menton's Mayor Mr Jean-Claude Guibal, also a Member of the French Parliament, as well as many others VIP took part in the Opening Ceremony as well as in the Award Ceremony.

Games played on top boards were transmitted live on the French Federation website.

Italy's IGM Michel Godena representing Valle d'Aosta was declared the 2016 Champion of La Francophonie while WGM Egyptian Khaled Mona was feminine Champion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. FM Raffaele di Paolo achieved an International Master norm.

The traditional closing dinner took place in Menton's Casino lounge in a festive and friendly atmosphere

### **Monaco, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Patrick Van Hoolandt was honored to be awarded the Monaco Sport Medal by Prince Albert II. Chess and Francophonie were the talk of the day.

### **Nice, France, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Mr. Christian Estrosi, President of Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur invited AIDEF President on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to the National Sport Museum of Nice so both of them would sign a Partnership Convention titled:

«The Region gets involved in Sport in the Maritimes Alps»

### **Paris, France, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Patrick Van Hoolandt took part in the French Chess Federation General Assembly where Bachar Kouatly was elected as the new President with an impressive 63% score and an historical participation.

Upon Patrick's invitation, both of them had lunch the next with a couple of assistants. Cooperation and getting closer was discussed at length.

A joint official press communiqué was published by the French Federation on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017:

« The French Chess Federation (FFE) Bachar Kouatly underlined France historical founding role in AIDEF and wishes to ponder with AIDEF which development initiatives could apply in underprivileged chess areas of the francophone world. Greeting this decision, Patrick Van Hoolandt congratulated Bachar Kouatly in the name of AIDEF for his election, wishing him to fully succeed in his new and difficult mission. Undoubtedly this election would facilitate an improved connection between FFE and AIDEF with all French speaking players being the ultimate beneficiaries».

### **Monaco, November 23 2016**

9<sup>th</sup> Peace and Sport International Forum.  
Peace at play: changing the world through sport.

AIDEF President, represented FIDE on Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the march for peace and at the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum closing ceremony.

### **Tunis, Hammamet, Mornag – Tunisie, January 31 to February 2017**

AIDEF President visit planning:

Head office visit at Tunisian Chess Federation, meetings with IGM Oleg Romanishin, new head coach of the Tunisian chess team, official dinners with Government members, sponsors and Tunisian Federation new management team, meeting at Youth and Sport Ministry with Minister Mrs Majdouline Cherni and Secretary Mr. Imed Jabri, hotels and play halls visit in Hammamet related to Tunisia candidacy for the 5<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters, launching of 10 days training program for élite Tunisian chess players by Oleg Romanishine, visit of primary private school «Anas School» in the city of Mornag where young kids are initiated to chess by AIDEF Vice-President Mohamed Zouaoui...

These exchanges reinforced already existing strong ties between the Tunisian Chess Federation and AIDEF and opened new cooperation avenues within the francophone chess world.

### **Paris, France June 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017-10-09**

Mohamed Zouaoui and Bernard Labadie, both representing the Francophone Chess Association, met at the TV5 head office in Paris with Zina Berrahal, Marketing Officer, Maghreb.

It was quickly established they all had the same mindset about La Francophonie and that they shared the same cultural and human values. Zina Berrahal outlined TV5 specifications. Within weeks a cooperation agreement was reached.

TV5 World and AIDEF both sharing the same «Art de vivre» (Art of living), the 5<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters will surely enjoy a media coverage greater than previous years. As a matter of fact, a 30 seconds clip will be run on the channel and a crew will be based in Hammamet to produce a reportage.

The following day Patrick Van Hoolandt joined Mohamed and Bernard and the three of them met with l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). They were warmly greeted at OIF head office by Imma Tor Faus from the General Secretary Cabinet who had obviously well studied the Reports sent ahead of the meeting.

Indeed, Mrs Tor Faus expressed her sincere congratulations for the dedication and dynamism of the French Chess Association. In the end, she then proposed to forward a positive feedback to Mrs Michaëlle Jean, General Secretary and to Mr. Mahaman Lawan Seriba, Director of the Francophone Games International Committee.

After this meeting, an immediate debriefing report was sent to OIF. AIDEF then received a written agreement by Mr. Jean-Louis Atangana Amougou, Cabinet Director of Madame la Secrétaire Général. AIDEF was to be included in talks leading to an integration of Chess as an official discipline allowed in the Francophone Games while the 5<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters could be immediately held under the «High Patronage» of OIF.

To finish off the day, the AIDEF team enjoyed an invigorating dinner with long-time friend Bachar Kouatly, President of FFE. Reminiscence, on-going projects and common interests were talked about at length.

### **Nice- France, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Éric Ciotti, President of the Alpes-Maritimes department, invited the AIDEF President to represent Chess at the 2017 Sport Caravan. Philippe Manassero, President of the Alpes-Maritimes Olympic Sports Committee attended.

### **Geneva-Switzerland, July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

From July 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> a World Championship phase was held in Geneva, on francophone territory. Gilles Mirallès, dynamic President of the Geneva Chess Federation and AIDEF naturally cooperated with AGON the event organizer. The welcome cocktail and the opening ceremony took place at the Four seasons, Hôtel des Bergues, with many VIP including FIDE President, many AIDEF and Geneva Federation guests.

## **Haiti, August 22, 2017**

Our friend Jean Lamothe, President of the Haitian Chess Federation passed away.

The francophone chess world is in mourning as the Haitian Chess federation announced the death of its President, Jean Lamothe, while in Cuba on Tuesday August 22. He was 80 years old. We shall remember him proudly holding a Haitian flag at the Baku closing ceremony Baku in a group picture with AIDEF President.

AIDEF extends its most sincere condolences to his family, his friends and all the Haitian chess players.

## **Antalya – Turkey, October 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

At FIDE 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, AIDEF is being represented by its President who is participating to various Commissions workshops, including this one which you are attending.

We are actively working with the «Chess in schools» Commission as we are developing a partnership in order to create a distance training platform for school's instructors. As Gilles Mirallès is in charge of this, he will make a presentation.

Also, a group of translators (English to French) led by Bernard Sojka has begun to translate FIDE official texts.

Scarcity of French technical manuals is a major handicap to chess development in the francophone chess world.

Once finalized translations are uploaded on AIDEF website under the tab «Traduction» where they can be downloaded.

A second «Week of Chess and of La Francophonie» is well on its way for July 2018 in Cannes. The program would include an international conference, a training seminar for school instructors, blitz and rapid Championships of La Francophonie.

The Francophone Chess Association website now has 8000 members and our basic information page is above 2000 likes. The post of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters was seen 10 000 times!

The Chess Federation of Albania has already declared itself a candidate for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Francophone Chess Encounters in 2018.

## **Yasmine Hammamet – Tunisia, October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Francophone Chess Association major yearly event, the International Francophone Chess Encounters, has been going on since 2013, is growing every year. It has reached a top international level and has become not only a way to compete for Francophone Championships titles but an opportunity for convivial quality time helping to foster north-south peer support.

This year, two countries, namely Ivory Coast and Tunisia were candidates. The Executive Board voted 11 to 3 for Tunisia.

This 2017 vintage promises to be an exceptional one because:

- As of today, we have 200 registered players accounting for 26 citizenships,
- We have created a Senior and a Veteran championship,
- A FIDE trainer seminar is organised,
- Over EU 15 000,00 in prizes are offered,

- The «Haut-Patronage of OIF is a given,
- Starting October 14<sup>th</sup>, a video clip will be run on TV5 world,
- A TV crew from TV5 world will be reporting on location,
- Top boards will be transmitted live on chessbase.fr,
- Closing ceremony and dinner will include many VIP.

The Francophone Chess Association is giving all of you a warm «rendez-vous» in 2 weeks' time in Yasmine Hammamet for the biggest Francophone chess festival.

All are welcome!