Short report of FMJD Council online meeting (31.03.2021)

Present: President Janek Mäggi, Director International Relations Harry Otten, General Secretary Yuriy Chertok, Treasurer Aare Harak, Tournament Director Youth Daniele Macali, President of European Confederation Carlo Bordini, FMJD representative on WADA issues Dr. Renato Capurro, Players Committee representative Jean Marc Ndjofang, President of Online Section Aleksander Kandaurov (participated in the discussion of point 5).

During the meeting, the following questions were discussed:

1) The World Title Matches

Women's Match in Warsaw (April 23rd – May 3rd, 2021)

Preparations of the Polish Draughts federation for the match are being carried out in close collaboration with the Tournament Director Youth and the General Secretary and by now almost everything is ready. Due to the nationwide increase in Covid-19 cases, the tighter restrictions have been imposed in Poland that will remain in place till at least mid April. Hopefully, the epidemiological situation in Poland will improve and the match will be organized within the due dates. Otherwise, it will be necessary to postpone the event.

Men's Match (autumn 2021) - at the time of the meeting, the commission created at the request of the Latvian Draughts Federation had not yet completed its work. The commission's opinion will be published separately.

2) The World Championships in Tallinn (June 28th -July 15th)

The main sponsor of the event is the city government of Tallinn. The event will be organized in compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, agreed with the Estonian Olympic Committee. An invitation giving short overview of the safety requirements will be sent out to players *(these requirements might change*: *PCR tests-one in home country, one upon arrival; first 24 hours stay in hotel; health and travel insurance, no spectators allowed etc.)* with links to state authorities. In case some countries inoculate sportsmen travelling abroad, special letters confirming their participation in the Championship might be provided. Restrictions in Estonia remain in force until the 25th of April. Then the final decision on conducting the World Championships will be communicated to the federations.

Qualification for the World Championship. Because of the pandemic and the impossibility for some confederations to conduct selection for the World Championship 2021, the Council requests the confederations to form the lists of their proposed players for the World Championships in accordance with the quotas

specified in FMJD Annexes in order to give the players an opportunity to participate in the event. The proposed player lists are to be sent to the FMJD office by 1st of May. The list of participants may be changed until May 10th, 2021. After that date, if a player is not able to participate in the championship, his place will be reassigned according to the FMJD Global List.

3) The next General Assembly (July 3rd, 2021)

The next FMJD General Assembly will take place in Tallinn, Estonia on July 3rd, 2021, during the World Championship. The FMJD General Assembly announcement was sent to the federations and published at the FMJD website. It contains the concept agenda and some additional information concerning the elections. Proposals for adding points to the agenda may be made until May 21, 2021.

Voting rights: Candidates for functions in the Council may be proposed no later than 1 month prior to the General Assembly by federations that have satisfied all their financial obligations toward FMJD. A federation that cannot participate in the Assembly may give mandate to another member federation of the FMJD. According to article 21, paragraph 21.2 of FMJD Statutes, *«a delegate may represent 1 (one) more Member that has given his voting rights in an official letter to the delegate. The original letter needs to be presented to the council before the meeting starts».*

4) FMJD and WADA relationships

Regarding the implementation of the Arbitral Award CAS 2020/O/6689 World Anti-Doping Agency v. Russian Anti-Doping Agency the FMJD is ready to follow the WADA instructions and prescriptions; nevertheless, the FMJD Council does not find this decision appropriate. The Russian players have nothing to do with doping and with RUSADA. Moreover, doping issues cannot be treated the same way when it comes to mind sport federations as it is done in the context of big physical sport federations. Therefore, the Council decided to address WADA higher-level authorities and ask to ease the sanctions and to make doping control stipulations more reasonable for the draughts sport.

Dr. Renato Capurro works closely with Laetitia Zumbrunnen, WADA's Senior Manager, in order to settle the questions connected with WADA.

5) Online Section FMJD

A. Kandaurov reported on the work performed during the last 3 months:

- **Online Draughts Regulations has been drawn up** and sent to the Technical Committee. The Regulations shall apply to all variants of draughts and different

modes of play. It is proposed to create a working commission to continue work on the Regulations.

- **Contacts with Lidraugths were established in December 2020**. Stefan Schermann, the owner of Lidraugths is looking forward to closer cooperation with FMJD Online Section. A plan of modernizing the platform has been developed, which could help FMJD ensure conduct of online tournaments in all draughts variants while applying the FMJD rules, and user-friendly, automatized system for organization of these events. The sum of 7,400 euros is needed to implement the project. A. Kandaurov will negotiate on this issue with the potential sponsor and inform the Council of the conditions and possibilities, after which the final decision will be taken.
- **The anti-cheating measures**. The anti-cheating system will be integrated into Lidraugths platform. It is also proposed to create the Fair Play Committee that would be led by Ivan Antonenko, Ukraine. This committee might have top grandmasters as its members and cooperate with the Ethical Committee.
- Online Section plans to organize **Online World Cup 2021 in Brazilian Draughts** in 2021. The invitation letters have been sent to different national federations and the regulations are published on the FMJD website. Official national federations are welcome to participate in the tournament.

- Other plans of FMJD Online Section:

- Organize training of arbiters to work with Draughts Arbiter program as mainstream of FMJD standard for online tournaments.
- Calculate special online rating for official tournaments blitz & rapid (to be discussed with the Technical committee).
- Involve some volunteers to work on 100 game support.
- Finish online language support (4 languages) – http://online.shashki.com/
- Launch online tournament's livestreams on YouTube. Lidraughts platform has built-in features for this.

6) World Championships in blitz and rapid – 100

The members of the Council admit the necessity to conduct the World Championships in Blitz and Rapid. Turkey has been considered as a possible venue for the competitions, but as it is still difficult for many players to travel because of the restrictions, therefore the Championships in blitz and rapid will most likely be conducted in September 2021.