Short report of FMJD Council online meeting (12.01.2021)

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, former Tournament Director Jacek Pawlicki (remark: Mr.Pawlicki participated in the discussion of the following points: 2,3,6).

During the meeting the following questions were discussed:

1) Women's Match in Moscow

The Board considers the situation with Women's Match in Moscow as wholly unacceptable. No Match will further take place before the prize money (or at least a major part of it) and the organization fee is transferred to the FMJD account. The FMJD Council took decision to compensate Polish team the costs for the failed match in full (according to the provided by the federation letter). This compensation will be made after all obligations from World title match in Warsaw organizers are fulfilled (registration fee paid, the prize fund transferred to FMJD account, the competitions successfully finished).

2) Women's Match in Warsaw

As the Women's Match had failed to take place in Moscow, the Polish Draughts Federation took on the responsibility to organize the Women's World Title Match 2020 Tansykkuzhina – Sadowska. The Match is to be held from 23 of April to 3 of May, 2021 in Warsaw, Poland. Damian Reszka was deputed as the Match Director and started to work on its organization. Poland will ensure the payment of prize fund in the amount of at least 20, 000 Euros and is ready to transfer this sum to the FMJD account in advance.

3) Men's Match in the Netherlands

The final decision on the Men's Match in the Netherlands still needs to be taken. As Alexander Georgiev had refused to take part in this event because of the pandemic, the possibility of Yiming Pan's participation in the Match against Roel Boomstra was discussed with the Chinese side. When the definitive answer of Yiming Pan and China is gotten, the members of FMJD Council will consider the further steps to be taken.

4) Proposal for organizing matches for the world titles

The General Secretary (GS) made a proposal to guarantee the current world champions (if he/she participates in the match) 10, 000 Euros (for instance) in addition to the prize fund as "starting money", so that both the challenger and the world champion were interested in participating in the match. If the match does not take place, the starting money is not paid. This idea was proposed to apply to all upcoming matches among men and women. This money could also serve in case of an emergency to compensate for the players' costs or be a kind of insurance in the context of the pandemic. Besides GS proposed setting a minimum prize fund for the title matches, without which the matches cannot take place.

The Executive Board decided that they cannot support these proposals as it is, and it was accepted that a more effective way to ensure the match's taking place is to make it a rule that the prize money (or at least a major part of it - 60, 70 or 80 percent) should be at the bank account of FMJD before the match is being played.

5) **World Championship in Tallinn**

Due to the pandemic the World Championship in Tallinn is postponed to summertime and now is planned to be held from the 28th of June till 15th of July 2021.
The General Assembly will take place on 3rd of July.

6) **European Championship**

If the situation is favorable the European qualification tournaments will be organized in May, according to the results of which the players will be promoted to the World Championship.

7) **FMJD and anti-doping**

Dr. Renato Capurro has been working on FMJD doping code and regulations as well as on the issues of out-of-competition testing for the FMJD to comply with the WADA rules. In the nearest future he is going to Lausanne to settle the remaining questions. Aare Harak will provide him with the information available on the doping tests that were collected in 2017, 2018 and 2019 during FMJD events. Hopefully, all WADA procedures will have been implemented in about 2 months.

8) **Financial overview**

Aare Harak reported about the current state of FMJD accounts. The audit for the years 2019-2020 will be presented to the Financial Committee in the next couple of weeks.

9) **SportAccord and international work**

Because of the pandemic the International Federations Forum that should have taken place in Lausanne in November was cancelled. The next meeting of SportAccord in Ekaterinburg is foreseen for May, but as the situation with Covid-19 is not stable, it might be cancelled, too. FMJD President Janek Mäggi and Director on International Relations Harry Otten plan to participate in the meeting and achieve some positive results promoting FMJD's issues connected with the IOC or other international federations.

10) **Proposal of Matthias de Kruijf**

A proposal has been received by the FMJD from Matthias de Kruijf, the founder of the YouTube channel Draughts10x10. He and his team suggest taking draughts world to a higher and more professional level by means of making videos and live streams of high quality.
Currently the FMJD cannot agree to these services for the asked price. But the FMJD Council suggests that Matthias de Kruijf contacts Mr. Kandaurov, the recently appointed Chairman of the FMJD Section Online and other people that are involved in online draughts, and that they compile and send to FMJD a common proposal, having considered which the FMJD will decide whether it is possible to find means to support such an initiative.

11) **Points of Daniele Macali**

Project "The Magic of Draughts" - English Translation. The courses (5 years) are already translated into French and available for free for all the draughts community (https://www.fmjd.org/promo/magic/). As the books proved to be especially useful both for young players and trainers, the Tournament Director Youth proposed to invest some money to translate them into English, too; and place these books on FMJD website to make available for free to public at large. Executive Board supported the proposal and there will be a further investigation on copyrights options.

FMJD List of Trainers. Tournament Director Youth proposed to make a list of trainers recognized by the FMJD, in which would be also indicated such characteristics as languages spoken, kinds of draughts they are able to teach, age groups of players they work with (hopes, adolescents, adults). The Executive Board supports the initiative. The General Secretary will send the letters to federations with the request to provide their trainers' lists where the information indicated above will be presented and then gather all the data in one document – FMJD List of Trainers.

FMJD List of Organizers. The Tournament Director Youth proposed to make an official list of organizers, where will be included federations or /and organizers of FMJD competitions (such as WC, WCY, WC matches, World Cup Opens, etc.) and some notes about the way these events were organized. The organizer is considered trustworthy if he meets certain requirements and showed himself as a reliable partner. Such a list will be useful for those people who join the Board and should know some information of the potential organizers, the history of events etc. The proposal is approved by the Board.

Request of check and eventual revision of FMJD rating system. The rating system is something that must be controlled. According to the Tournament Director Youth there could be a deflection of the rating system. To date the rating system was run by Jacek Pawlicki, who stepped down as Tournament Director. FMJD Council hopes that Mr.Pawlicki will continue his work on FMJD database and ratings.

Using Youtube videos effectively

The Board agreed that the FMJD should start thinking about investing money to prepare more interesting videos to promote draughts all around the world. For effective draughts development the FMJD considers reasonable creation an official marketing position.

WYC 2021

China withdrew its application for World Youth Championship 2021 and the FMJD has to assign it to another organizer. If the epidemiological conditions improve there is the possibility that the World Youth Championship will be conducted in Belarus at the end of October- beginning of November 2021.

12) Points of Carlo Bordini:

EDC new statute

The EDC presented the new EDC Statute to FMJD Board, which had been prepared for the EDC the document (EDC Statute) has already been sent to the European draughts federations and during these 2-3 months they may propose modifications. Then the EDC Statute is planned to be approved during the next EDC GA.

Including draughts sport into FISU (International University Sports Federation) activities

The Executive Council approved the proposal. The FMJD Office will contact FISU with the request to provide the details concerning the organization and on what is needed to become its member.