Dear federations, honoured presidents and managers, dear colleagues!

Despite the challenges of the past year, which affected both our private lives and our favourite draughts game, I am honoured to write this letter with a view to more hopeful future. Draughts have played significant role in the process of growth of my own personality and success I have managed to achieve in business and family life. At the moment, I am ready to dedicate my time for the kind of sports, which is so dear to all of us and to raise it at unprecedented level.

Many of you know who I am, but I will make a brief introduction to myself.

I have been involved in draughts since the age of 7, and, during my age of youth, I was able to achieve recognisable world level results. At the age of 20, I decided to actively pursue my professional career and contributed to active self-development in business. At the moment, I am a co-owner of an international network media agency "Initiative Latvia" (http://initiative.lv/en), which has become a market leader of its industry in the time-span of three years. Besides, I am also a co-owner and active manager of an international network digital agency in Latvia called "Reprise" (https://reprisedigital.com/) and the marketing agency "Marvelous Communication". Besides media and marketing industry, I am additionally engaged with various e-commerce and IT platform creation projects. Management level positions in these companies provide me with opportunity to strongly support also draughts by involving massive human resources, ready to support me in draughts-related projects.

My wife Olesya Abdullina is also a skilful draughts player, and together we raise two daughters, who are also actively engaged with draughts. Five years ago, I decided to return to the life related to draughts with a different goal, and, together with my wife, we decided to create a commercial draughts school "Domātprieks" [Joy of thinking] (www.domatprieks.lv).

In 2018, I started managing the Latvian Draughts Federation and introduced significant changes and reforms to the quality and prestige of local tournaments. At the end of 2018, world class competition in draughts returned to Latvia, and, under my leadership, title match of World Champion between Zoja Golubeva and Natalia Sadowska was organised. In 2019, stage of the World Cup Riga Open and World Blitz Championship was organised. These events around draughts game created positive echoes in the circles of draughts players across the globe and

encourage me to take the next step and stand in the upcoming FMJD elections to be taking place very soon.

I believe that, in the recent years, the world of draughts has been facing significant stagnation. We do not have a clear strategy and vision on where we want to go and how it would be possible to get there. Questions finding answers to which would be important: how to make draughts sports interesting for a gradually growing masses and sponsors and how to become a prestigious kind of sports? The world of draughts does not see any leaders at the moments when someone has to take responsibility and deal with conflicts. What we see is beautiful photographs with smiling faces, however, during the recent years, there appear more and more conflict situations which are deal with at professional level. I want to become a part of the FMJD team, which will be ready to take responsibility and dedicate its time and resources. My motivation is not a nice entry in my biography or personal benefit, but raising draughts at a globally higher level.

Upon becoming a Secretary General of the FMJD, I would like to address and deal with the following matters:

Organisation of daily work of the FMJD team under the leadership of the President of the FMJD

- Transparent decision-making;
- Structural changes promoting more operational and professional decision-making;
- Transparent financial management;
- Greater involvement of committees and leading players in the improvement of tournament system.

Popularisation of draughts

- Creation of a complete book of the FMJD brand. There has been a replacement of logo, but there has been no further development;
- Formation of a scientific work group with the goal to define importance of draughts in the development of children and popularisation of this information;
- Putting of digital channels in order according to the visual image;

- Coordination of development, implementation and supervision of social media strategy. Involvement of a professional team to post interesting content, which is interesting and suitable for the draughts world;
- Creation of a FMJD Youtube channel providing technologies and broadcastings of the key FMJD events;
- Work with mass media;
- Development of new countries. A great deal of stagnation can be observed in this matter, and the number of the seemingly active participants of children, youth and adult championships even decreases, which is a significant point for a number of countries due to the set minimum number of countries for the official tournaments to claim for state funding.

Raising draughts prestige

- Introduction and control of minimum mandatory requirements for the youth and adult official tournaments by the organisers and participants. It is significant to raise organisational level of the tournaments – quality of premises of the competition and accommodation, especially in relation to children. Children are future of draughts, and their parents are potential sponsors, as well as the people, who will decide on whether to leave their kids in this kind of sports or not;
- Attraction of sponsors by developing various sponsoring packages, such as General Sponsor of the FMJD, Broadcast Sponsor, provider of awards for children and youth sports and other.

Development on the board of draughts-64

- In Latvia, draughts-64 is more popular than draughts-100. Situation in other countries is similar. Initially, I played draughts-64 myself, and I believe that varieties of draughts-64 should be paid a great deal of attention instead of focusing only on draughts-100;
- During the recent years, split in the circles of draughts-64 has resulted in major damage. Actual reasons for such a split must be understood in the first place, and whether it is

possible to stop the long-lasting conflict and develop draughts instead of personal ambitions;

- During the recent years, the current FMJD section of draughts-64 has not proven its ability to attract interest of national federations, and, in my opinion, nothing is being done to change this;
- Varieties of draughts-64 should be paid a greater deal of attention, and I will certainly do this on my part.

In light of the recent events, I have to admit that Mr Jacek Pawlicki has been one of a few representatives of the FMJD, who has been ready to take responsibility and admit his mistakes; but the main thing over all those years is that he has not only talked about works to be done, but also really dedicated his time, energy, funds and heart to selflessly develop this kind of sports, which is so close to all of us. I remember my first European youth championship very well, and I am grateful that such a tournament system was introduced, because it was a large part of my life, which was related to a serious preparation over the period of several months, which helped making me the personality I am today. In this election, I support Jacek Pawlicki a candidate for the President. I believe that Jacek's vast experience combined with my energy and passion to reach for new heights will make a great duo to perform special works.

I hereby call also other activists to join in and make this happen together!

Yours sincerely,
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