



GENS UNA SUMUS

# FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee

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## PRESS RELEASE - April 27, 2004

### **The 2004 World Chess Championship to be held June 18 until July 13 in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, under the patronage of the Libyan leader H.E. Moammar Al Gathafi**

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The World Chess Federation (FIDE: <http://www.fide.com>) is pleased to announce that the 2004 World Chess Championship will take place June 18 - July 13 in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, under the patronage of the Libyan leader H.E. Moammar Al Gathafi.

The Libyan Olympic Committee (LOC), the local organizing body of the event, guarantees entry visas to all the 128 qualified participants of the Championship and the invitation to the players is signed by the President of LOC, Eng. Mohammad Moammar Al Gathafi. Consequently, all the games of the championship will be played in Tripoli, Libya and no parallel event will be organized in Malta.

The format of the tournament will be a 128-player knock-out system and the games will be played from June 19 (1st round) until July 13 (tie-breaks and closing ceremony). The total prize fund of this year's World Chess Championship will reach the amount of 1.5 million USD and it will be sponsored in whole by the Libyan government. In addition to the prize money, the new World Chess Champion will also receive a copy of the newly created Gathafi Cup. The original Gathafi Cup will remain in Libya and it will be awarded to the winner of three (3) titles.

The President of FIDE, H.E. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, recently met with the Libyan leader H.E. Moammar Al Gathafi to discuss the details of this upcoming championship. FIDE is positive that the games will be held successfully in Libya and this year's World Chess Championship will remain in history as an important milestone in the development of chess in this geographical region.

The playing venue of the World Chess Championship in Libya will be the 5-star Almahary Hotel in Tripoli. The final list of the 128 qualified players and further details will be announced in the next few days and all information will also be available from FIDE's website at <http://www.fide.com>

#### ***About FIDE***

The World Chess Federation (FIDE) is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the supreme body responsible globally for the game of chess and its championships. FIDE is organizing the World Chess Championship as well as all world championships for women, junior and youth categories, the bi-annual Chess Olympiad and it also publishes the official FIDE Rating List (currently No.1 is Gary Kasparov of Russia). FIDE has a membership of 160 national chess federations and it retains offices in Greece and Russia.

#### *For more information contact:*

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