

## The United States Chess Federation



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Muradian

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### Day 4 - Executive Board Meeting

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BY **SEVAN MURADIAN** ON MON SEP 27, 2010 2:35 PM #200101

FYI - I only have access to the Internet from this part of the Congress Hall on my Android phone so you won't get updates real time unfortunately.

This was an abbreviated meeting because most topics were moved over to the General Assembly so there would be no need to be repetitive (so we were done by 1pm instead of 7pm). This entire proceeding was both audio taped and video taped for legal reasons.

Those from the US that were there - Bill Kelleher, Michael Khordokovsky, Ruth Haring, Walter Brown, Beatriz Marinello, and myself.

This had worse than shades of Indy with the number of attorneys from both camps present, not to mention that other people such as the head of the FIDE Ethics commission is a Swiss lawyer (I think Swiss) and Morten Sand from the Tromso 2014 bid team is also a lawyer.

The first matter at hand that the Karpov attorney's brought up was stating that contacts for federations (president, secretary, and delegate) were not accurate on FIDE website and thus there would be proxy issues. This arguing went back and forth for about 30 minutes and was agreed that by 5pm on Tuesday FIDE would update the website by having the Karpov team member provide the information and if validated the website would get updated. If they could not validate the information (I'm not sure how they would validate / invalidate) then the information on the website would not be updated.

The next issue was the selection of the people that would validate the proxies paperwork and provide a written report to the General Assembly (GA). Now each continental president picks a person (there are 4) and by blind drawing one is eliminated. Hal Bond of Canada did the blind drawing. I can't remember the names of the 4 people though.

The Karpov team denounced this process stating that all 4 continental presidents have provided open support to the incumbent and thus the process is tainted. After a while the Asian Continental President (who is a Sheikh from the UAE) threw out the first spear that his integrity was being called into question.

A big issue at hand is that the statutes call for this process and now the Karpov team, who sued on the basis of not following statutes, is asking for change to it. Team Karpov was asking for 2 people to be picked from team Karpov and 2 from Team Kirsan and then one is removed by blind drawing.

The compromise was that each side will have an observer and they can provide input into the report (their opinion). The proxy validation was to happen at the Congress Hall and when asked who their observer will be (the one for Team Karpov) they refused to provide the name and said someone will be there.

The attorney who is also head of the Ethics commission spoke up saying that he understood what Team Karpov was saying but that violating statutes was a higher risk (I believe this is how he stated it) and that another solution has to be found. Morten Sand took the approach that all 4 continental presidents should recuse themselves so there can

be no claim of inappropriate actions if another lawsuit arises.

There was a lot of issue of protocol in terms of addressing the board. Multiple times, multiple parties would address the board by standing up and speaking without asking the chair for permission to address the floor. Permission was never denied to anyone, but this lack of following protocol got people hot under the collar.

So we still have the Continental elections, the FIDE Presidential Election, the Olympiad bid presentations, and the General Assembly as the main portions of what's left in the Congress for this year.

Some numbers have been thrown around now for the total legal costs so far incurred by FIDE for the suit. I've heard number from 800,000 - 1.2MM euros. So it's probably somewhere inbetween. I'm sure we'll hear an official number during the General Assembly.

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BY **SAMSLOAN** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 10:43 AM #200145

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I was there too.

The person you refer to as a "Swiss Lawyer" is Ank Santens. She is from Belgium and is a partner in the law firm of White and Case. I met her on Tuesday September 21, when we were both standing in line at the Russian Consulate at 9 East 91st Street, New York City applying for a visa.

Richard Conn embarrassed himself and us by saying "I could not speak to Jorge Vega because I do not know who Jorge Vega is?"

Jorge Vega is the Continental President for the Americas and was seated near to Richard Conn.

The old saying applies, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

When we get back somebody will have to answer the question of how we nominated someone to be FIDE Deputy President who knows absolutely nothing about FIDE and is not trying to learn either.

Sam Sloan

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· [Report this post \(./report.php?f=5&p=200157\)](#)  
BY **SEVAN MURADIAN** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 1:32 PM #200157

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*samsloan wrote:*

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**Jorge Vega is the Continental President for the Americas and was seated near to Richard Conn.**

Sam Sloan

Factually incorrect Sam. When Conn was speaking, Vega was seated next to the other continental presidents on the stage. Conn was speaking from the floor which was closest to where we were sitting.

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- BY **SEVAN MURADIAN** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 1:57 PM #200163
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*samsloan wrote:*

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Sam Sloan

Conn embarrassed himself more to those at the Executive Board meeting more by his attitude than anything else. We were provided a coffee break at which time the Karpov team led by him were to speak to the Continental Presidents regarding the Karpov's team objection to the process of selecting the committee to verify proxies. After the break the chair (Deputy President Makropoulos) asked if Conn spoke with the Continental Presidents and his response was that he spoke with the Continental President of Asia but none of the other Continental Presidents **approached him (Conn that is)**. This was laughed at by the Executive Board and many of the observers, that the Continental Presidents **had to approach him**, to resolve the issue when it was his issue that he raised.

It was also sad that he did make that statement of "I don't know who Jorge is" because all 4 Continental Presidents were lined up next to each other on the stage with their large name placards and were physically gestured to numerous times by the other Executive Board members.

His strut and swagger every time he took the microphone did not go unnoticed by those there as well and were quite commented on during the coffee break.

Being a lawyer or any form of presenter as he has been in his career, its learned how to control body language, tone of voice, etc to portray one is in control even if they are not. Aside from his strut and swagger, which I believe are purposely not controlled, his body language and voice were very cool and collected. However there's one thing you can't control and that's mother natures control over some aspects of physiology such as blood rushing to your head when angered or embarrassed and it's most visible in your ears even before your face proper. Sitting behind him two rows you could see how his ears would constantly alternate from flesh tone to beet red.

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- [Reply with quote \(./posting.php?mode=quote&f=5&p=200165\)](#)
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- BY **RANDY BAUER** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 2:05 PM #200165
- 

*Sevan Muradian wrote:*

*samsloan wrote:*

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You're not exactly a disinterested party in this, are you, Sevan?

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- BY SEVAN MURADIAN ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 2:12 PM #200166
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*Randy Bauer wrote:*

You're not exactly a disinterested party in this, are you, Sevan?

No I am not and that's not a secret so please don't infer anything else here Randy. My support of the Kirsan ticket is not unknown.

However feel free to request the video tape from FIDE and watch for yourself. I'm going to request to have a copy of that video made available so it can be converted and posted publicly.

Conn's gaffes were quite noticeable. Give me a tad bit more credit here than Sam on accurately reporting what was actually seen.

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- BY SAM SLOAN ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 2:15 PM #200169
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*Randy Bauer wrote:*

*Sevan Muradian wrote:*

*samsloan wrote:*

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Randy Bauer was not there and has never in his life been to a FIDE meeting as far as I am aware, yet he attacks for no reason that I can think of two reporters who were and are there.

Sam Sloan

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  - [Report this post \(./report.php?f=5&p=200171\)](#)
- BY **SEVAN MURADIAN** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 2:27 PM #200171
- 

*samsloan wrote:*

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Sam Sloan

Please don't defend me Sam. Feel free to defend yourself. Randy might be poking me here but I'm not finding him attacking me. Randy and I have had meaningful and working conversations in the past. We differ on view point on many things but that doesn't make one attacking or not towards the other party.

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- [Reply with quote \(./posting.php?mode=quote&f=5&p=200191\)](#)
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- BY **RANDY BAUER** ON TUE SEP 28, 2010 8:34 PM #200191
- 

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*Sevan Muradian wrote:*

*samsloan wrote:*

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Sam Sloan

A remarkable argument - one must have been to a meeting that one is 'reporting' from to critique the reporting. So, I suppose the next time I'm watching Fox "News" cover a Presidential press conference I cannot raise issues regarding their reporting because I've never been to a Presidential press conference? Right.

For one who has attacked as many people as you have, you exhibit a remarkably thin skin. If you're going to give it, learn to take it. Besides, I made an observation about Sevan, one that I do not think is an attack. He seems to have taken it in stride, perhaps you could exhibit greater equanimity as well.

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