Dear sports colleagues,

We would like to inform you about the situation in Bulgaria regarding the pandemic with the coronavirus and the organization of the chess championship of USIC.

So far in Bulgaria, 331 people are infected with coronavirus, 6 people have died and 3 people are in serious condition. In the State there is an extraordinary situation which will continue until April 13, if not continued. The work of all travel agencies, resorts, restaurants, cafes and others, except the chains of grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and drugstores, has been stopped. Many people who work in the administrations of different agencies are working on shifts or in their homes.

We have done the necessary so far to hold the chess championship. We are in permanent contact with the management of the sports sector of Albena Resort. The servicing staff of the complex is currently sent home. We have agreed with the Albena Sports Department that if the situation in Bulgaria does not get better by April 13, we will postpone the championship for the second half of September. If, then, there is a problem, in agreement with the General Secretariat, the President of USIC and all the participating countries, we will postpone the championship for 2021.

So far 14 countries have applied for participation: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russian Federation and Switzerland.

Till March 10, the fee has been paid from: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Poland, Russian Federation and Switzerland.

By letter dated on March 17, the German colleagues informed us that they would not participate in the Chess Championship and, at their request, the full participation fee, would be refunded as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to write to us.

Best regards,

Ognyan Rajdavichki
Stellvertretender Vorsitzender des bulgarischen Eisenbahnsportverbandes