



FIDE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

The First Instance Chamber of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (hereafter called “the EDC Chamber”), sitting in the following composition –

Chairperson : Mr Ali Nihat Yazici
Members : Mrs Olga Baskakova
Mr David Hater

during an exchange of correspondence and online meetings, made the following –

DECISION

Case no: 13/2025 “Alleged abuse and harassment of Hungarian players.”

INTRODUCTION

1. The EDC Chamber **notes** its establishment by the EDC Chairperson on 24th November 2025.
2. The EDC Chamber **notes** that the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) received a complaint against **Mr. Patrik Stevik** (FIDE ID: 14944812), **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** (FIDE ID: 14925621), **Mr. Richard Turcan** (FIDE ID: 14947951), and **Mr. Lukas Bango** (FIDE ID: 14933365) on the 30th of July, 2025, and another complaint against **Mr. Patrik Stevik** on the same subject dated on the 19th of September, 2025, concerning alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code, more particularly a possible breach of:
 - (i) Art. 6.4—human dignity and safety—read with 6.5 (d) and (g) of the Disciplinary Code.
 - (ii) Art. 11.9 (a)—socially unacceptable behavior—of the Disciplinary Code.
 - (iii) Art. 11.9 (d)—acts of misbehavior—of the Disciplinary Code.
3. The complainants are
 - (i) **Mr. Marco Biagioli**, the President of the Mitropa Chess Association: the complaint is dated 30th July 2025.
 - (ii) **WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet**: Her complaint is dated 19th September 2025. She was hired by the Slovakia Chess Federation as a commentator during the event.



4. Respondents are
 - (i) **Mr Patrik Stevik**
 - (ii) **Mr. Richard Turcan**
 - (iii) **Mr. Martin Jablonicky**
 - (iv) **Mr. Lukas Bango.**
5. The EDC Chamber **notes** that the respondents were given the opportunity to respond to the complaints by way of notice dated 25th November 2025. Three of the respondents (**Mr. Martin Jablonicky, Mr. Patrik Stevik, and Mr. Richard Turcan**) sent their statement and response before the deadline.
6. The EDC Chamber **notes** that Mr. **Lukas Bango** did not respond to the EDC Chamber's inquiries or use the opportunity given to submit a statement of defense in the proceedings before the EDC Chamber. Accordingly, the allegations set forth in the complaints against him remain uncontested by Mr. **Lukas Bango**.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Development of the Alleged Incidents

7. The EDC Chamber **notes** the complaints submitted by the complainants; the statements attached thereto (including the statement of the Captain of the Hungarian Women's Team); the Memorandum of the Hungarian Chess Federation; the report of the Chief Arbiter; the statement of the Secretary General of the Hungarian Chess Federation (including the official statements of the victims, Ms. X and Ms. Y); and the statement of the Youth National Team Captain of the Hungarian Chess Federation were examined. In light of these materials, and in consistency with the statements submitted by the respondents in their response, it has been concluded that the events occurred as set out below:
 - (i) Four players of the Slovak National Team, '**the Respondents,**' who participated in the Mitropa Cup 2025 held in Slovakia, consumed alcohol after one of the rounds and, while in a state of intoxication, took a taxi to another hotel where one of their teammates was staying and where the Slovak National Team held its pre-tournament training camp. They attempted to call their friend from the reception, but when there was no response, one of them, **Patrik Stevik**, allegedly told the others that he still had the key card of a room in which he had previously stayed and that they could stay in that room. They then all went to that room together.



- (ii) **Mr. Patrik Stevik** used the room key card that was issued to him during the pre-tournament training camp at that hotel to open the door, and three of the four players entered the room. These players were **Mr. Patrik Stevik**, **Mr. Martin Jablonicky**, and **Mr. Lukas Bango**. At that time, two females from the Hungarian Women's National Team were sleeping in the room. One of the players is under the age of 18 and is a minor. When **Mr. Stevik**, **Mr. Jablonicky**, and **Mr. Bango** entered the room, **Mr. Turcan** remained in the corridor and did not enter the room.
- (iii) The females present in the room experienced extreme fear and panic and repeatedly demanded that the intruders leave. After the intruders exited the room, **Mr. Stevik** attempted to reenter, stating that he wanted to retrieve his sneakers. A physical altercation occurred at the door of the room; the female players inside did not consent to anyone entering the room, but **Mr. Stevik** forcibly entered, retrieved his sneakers, and then left the room again.
- (iv) Following the incidents, on the next day, the Hungarian team captain brought the matters to the attention of the organizers and the Mitropa Chess Federation. The Slovak Federation demonstrated due sensitivity regarding the events and indicated that the player concerned could be expelled from the tournament. However, since such a measure would have affected the number of rounds and the players' rights to obtain norms, and with the consent of the Hungarian delegation, no sporting sanctions were imposed on any individual during the tournament.

Defenses Provided by Respondents

8. The Chamber **notes** that, when the respondents' statements are examined collectively, they do not deny their actions and that the statements they provided are fully consistent with the sequence of events described above. The EDC Chamber **notes** that the respondents' statements are as follows:

8.1 The Chamber **notes** the written statement of **Mr. Patrik Stevik** dated 11 December 2025, submitted in response to the request of the FIDE Office concerning the incident at the Mitropa 2025 tournament.

8.1.1 In his response, **Mr. Stevik** acknowledged that in the early hours of 17 May 2025, he behaved in a manner that he deeply regrets and expressly apologized for the inconvenience and distress caused to the persons affected, the tournament organizers, and the chess community as a whole.



8.1.2 He stated that he was 18 years old at the time, had no prior ethical or legal disciplinary record, and that the incident constituted his first and last excess, which occurred under the influence of alcohol. He expressly emphasized that alcohol does not absolve him of responsibility for his actions.

8.1.3 **Mr. Stevik** stated that his actions were not motivated by malice and that he had no intention to harm anyone, asserting in particular that he removed his sneakers before entering the room and was barefoot in the hotel corridor, a circumstance that he claimed could be verified by hotel video recordings.

8.1.4 He further acknowledged that he should not have been present at the hotel, as he had already been relocated by the organizers, and admitted that he had mistakenly retained the room key card from his former accommodation, which he then used to open the room door.

8.1.5 He explained that, due to alcohol intoxication, he failed to realize that the room was occupied. Upon entering, he stated that he and the others sat briefly in the hallway area and left immediately upon hearing voices from inside the room. He further stated that he returned only to retrieve his forgotten sneakers, after which he left the premises.

8.1.6 **Mr. Stevik** emphasized that there was no physical contact and that his actions had neither sexual motive nor sexual character, reiterating that he had no bad intentions toward the occupants of the room.

8.1.7 He further stated that on the following day he personally apologized, together with others, to the affected players, presented them with flowers, and accepted his exclusion from the tournament, which occurred two rounds before its conclusion.

8.1.8 Finally, **Mr. Stevik** requested that the Chamber take into account mitigating circumstances, including his age, lack of prior disciplinary history, expressed remorse, and subsequent voluntary withdrawal from competitive chess for a period of two months, and respectfully asked for a suspended sanction, undertaking not to repeat such conduct in the future.

8.2 The Chamber **notes** the written statement of **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** dated 16 December 2025, submitted in response to the request of the FIDE Office concerning the incident at the Mitropa 2025 tournament, as follows:

8.2.1 In his written statement, **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** explained that in the early morning hours following a birthday celebration, he, together with **Mr. Patrik Stevik**, **Mr. Lukas Bango**, and **Mr. Richard Turcan**, went to a hotel to visit a friend with the



intention of speaking with him and possibly staying overnight. When they were unable to reach the friend, **Mr. Stevik** indicated that he still possessed a key card from a previously occupied room. **Mr. Jablonicky** stated that he did not know whether the room was occupied and assumed that they would leave immediately if it was not vacant. He acknowledged that he was heavily intoxicated at the time and failed to appreciate the seriousness and potential consequences of this decision. He confirmed that **Mr. Stevik** opened the door using the key card and that he, together with **Mr. Stevik** and **Mr. Bango**, briefly entered the room but left immediately upon realizing that it was occupied.

8.2.2 **Mr. Jablonicky** further stated that **Mr. Stevik** re-entered the room solely to retrieve his forgotten shoes and that he himself briefly returned to the doorway to apologize and assure the occupants that they would leave, which they did immediately thereafter. He expressly confirmed that **Mr. Richard Turcan** did not enter the room and did not wish to do so. **Mr. Jablonicky** emphasized that he has no prior history of similar incidents, acknowledged the seriousness of his conduct, expressed deep remorse, and offered his sincere apology to all persons affected by the incident.

8.3 The Chamber **notes** the written statement of **Mr. Richard Turcan** dated 15 December 2025, submitted in response to the request of the FIDE Office concerning the incident at the Mitropa 2025 tournament, as follows:

8.3.1 In his written statement, he explained that what began as an evening walk to clear their heads and visit a friend at the Magnus Hotel escalated once it became apparent that they did not know the friend's room number; he stated that he, together with **Mr. Lukas Bango**, suggested returning and expressly opposed the idea of entering any room at random, emphasizing that he did not enter the room as he considered such conduct clearly inappropriate.

8.3.2 He further stated that he remained nearby only in the belief that his presence might help de-escalate the situation, but was unable to do so, and that he neither harassed nor harmed anyone nor violated fair play or moral rules.

8.3.3 **Mr. Turcan** described that the situation escalated verbally when **Mr. Patrik Stevik** attempted to re-enter the room to retrieve his shoes, that he does not recall any physical contact, and that once the shoes were retrieved, they left the hotel. He also denied any involvement in or awareness of any alleged harassment and stated that he was unaware at the time that two young Hungarian players were staying in the room.



8.4 The EDC Chamber once again **notes** that **Mr. Lukas Bango** did not submit any written defense or statement.

Other Facts Related to the Case

9. The Chamber **notes** that, in order to ascertain **Mr. Patrik Stevik**'s age on the date of the incident (the day of birth is not published on the FIDE Rating Website), he was asked whether he would voluntarily provide a document evidencing his age. Based on the identity card submitted by **Mr. Stevik**, the Chamber **notes** that **Mr. Stevik** was of legal age at the time of the incident, having already reached the age of 18.
10. The Chamber **notes**, as indicated in the case file, that the Slovak Chess Federation referred the players concerned to the Federation's Ethics Commission and, in this context, requested information from the relevant federation regarding the status of the case at the national level. By its letter dated 8 January 2026, the Slovak Chess Federation provided the following information:
 - (i) The Chamber **notes** that, according to the official information provided by the Slovak Chess Federation, the Arbitration and Ethics Commission (which, as of 1 December 2025, had been merged into a single body) rendered its decision on 20 December 2025, and that the decision has become final, the appeal period having expired without any appeals being filed.
 - (ii) By this decision, disciplinary sanctions were imposed on the players involved as follows: **Mr. Patrik Stevik** was sanctioned with a two-year ban from representing Slovakia in national team events, including FIDE and ECU competitions; **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** and **Mr. Lukas Bango** were each sanctioned with a twelve-month ban; and **Mr. Richard Turcan** was sanctioned with a six-month ban. These bans on national representation were applied with effect from 23 May 2025, corresponding to the date on which the Executive Committee of the Slovak Chess Federation provisionally decided not to nominate the players to national team events.
 - (iii) In addition, the same durations of sanctions were imposed with respect to participation in official Slovak national championships, both individual and team competitions, with these sanctions taking effect from 21 December 2025. The decision was published by the Slovak Chess Federation and constitutes the final resolution of the case at the national level.



- (iv) Based on the response received, the Ethics Commission of the Slovak Chess Federation has completed its examination of the Case and adopted the decisions set out above, and the appeal periods in respect of those decisions have expired without any appeals being filed; accordingly, the decisions have become final.

ADMISSIBILITY

11. EDC Chamber **notes** that to satisfy the admissibility criteria, the complaint must meet the minimum requirements in Article 5 of the EDC Code.
- (i) The EDC Chamber **finds** that both complainants have the necessary standing to submit a complaint.
 - (ii) The Respondents are FIDE-rated players holding titles and are members of the FIDE family. (5.1.b)
 - (iii) The allegations made and the documents submitted as part of the Complaint indicate, at least prima facie, that multiple provisions of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code have been violated (5.1.c).
 - (iv) The alleged misconduct took place during the Mitropa Cup 2025 (14th–22nd May 2025), which is an international tournament held in the international sphere. (5.1.d)
 - (v) The alleged incidents occurred within three months prior to the date the complaint was submitted to FIDE EDC. (5.1.e). This satisfied the requirement articulated in Code that the conduct must have occurred in the last three years.
 - (vi) One of the complainants, Mr. Biagoli, is the president of the Mitropa Chess Association, and the event occurred during the Mitropa Cup organized under the auspices of this association.
 - (vii) The complainant, WGM Ouellet, is a FIDE-rated and titled player and is a witness to the incidents, thereby having the necessary legal standing (direct and substantial interest). (5.2 / 5.2.b).
 - (viii) Upon due consideration, the EDC Chamber unanimously **finds** that both complaints meet all the requirements to be admissible as requested in Articles 5.1 and 5.2 of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code.

FINDINGS AND JURISDICTION

12. After considering and deliberating, the EDC Chamber **made** the following conclusions before determining a suitable sanction:



- (i) The EDC Chamber **finds** that, during the Mitropa Cup, the complaints and the alleged incidents attached thereto are corroborated both by the victim and witness statements included in the complaint and by the statements submitted to FIDE by the respondents.
- (ii) The Chamber **finds** that the events described in detail in the complaint filed by Ms. Ouellet were also corroborated by the respondents in their written defenses.

Mitigating Factors

13. The EDC Chamber has examined the mitigating and aggravating factors separately for each respondent and has reached the following conclusions:

- (i) The EDC Chamber **finds** that **Mr. Patrik Stevik** has a clean record for a similar offense previously and was involved in such an incident for the first time. His age, his remorse regarding the events, his declaration that he would accept the sanction to be imposed, his assistance in clarifying the facts, and his overall candor are considered mitigating factors.
- (ii) The EDC Chamber **finds** that **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** has a clean record for a similar offense previously and was involved in such an incident for the first time. His clean record, his remorse regarding the events, his assistance in clarifying the facts, and his sincerity are considered mitigating factors.
- (iii) The EDC Chamber **finds** that **Mr. Richard Turcan** has a clean record; his contribution to clarifying the events, his remorse, and the fact that he never entered the room where the victims were present are taken into account as mitigating factors.
- (iv) The EDC Chamber **finds** that **Mr. Lukas Bango** has a clean record is taken into consideration as a mitigating factor.

Aggravating Factors

- (v) The EDC Chamber **considers**, as aggravating factors for all respondents except **Mr. Richard Turcan**, that one of the victims was a minor, that both victims were female, that the intruders violated the victims' personal space, that there was physical harassment, and the possibility of lasting psychological trauma.
- (vi) The EDC Chamber further **considers and finds** that **Mr. Lukas Bango's** failure to submit any statement to the FIDE EDC Chamber constitutes an aggravating factor.



DECISION

14. Accordingly, and considering all of the above, the EDC Chamber **unanimously decides** as follows:

- (i) The Respondents are found **guilty** of breach of Art. 6.4 – human dignity and safety – read with 6.5 (d) and (g) – of the Disciplinary Code.
- (ii) The Respondents are found **guilty** of breach of Art. 11.9 (a)—socially unacceptable behavior – of the Disciplinary Code.
- (iii) The Respondents are found **guilty** of breach of Art. 11.9 (d)—acts of misbehavior—of the Disciplinary Code.

15. The EDC Chamber unanimously decides as follows:

- (i) **Mr. Patrik Stevik** (FIDE ID:14944812) is **sanctioned** to a worldwide ban from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for a period of **18 months** from the date of this decision published, with **6 months of this sanction suspended as a probation period**.
- (ii) **Mr. Martin Jablonicky** (FIDE ID:14925621) is **sanctioned** to a worldwide ban from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for a period of **12 months** from the date of this decision published, with **6 months of this sanction suspended as a probation period**.
- (iii) **Mr. Lukas Bango** (FIDE ID:14933365) is **sanctioned** to a worldwide ban from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for a period of **9 months** from the date of this decision published, with **3 months** of this sanction **suspended** as a probation period.
- (iv) **Mr. Richard Turcan** (FIDE ID:14947951) is **sanctioned** to a worldwide ban from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for a period of **6 months** from the date of this decision published, with **3 months** of this sanction **suspended** as a probation period.

16. The Respondents are referred to Chapter 7 of the EDC Procedural Rules and advised that this decision may be appealed to the EDC Appeal Chamber by giving written notice of such appeal to the EDC Chairman (ethics@fide.com) within 21 days from the date upon which this decision is received. The notice of appeal must clearly state all the grounds for the appeal. An appeal lodgment fee of **500 EUROS** (for each appellant separately) must at the same time be paid to the FIDE Financial Department. Failing the due exercise of this right of appeal, the EDC Chamber's decision will become final.



17. The EDC Chamber **requests** the FIDE Secretariat to promptly communicate the decision to the Respondents, **Mr. Patrik Stevik, Mr. Lukas Bango, Mr. Martin Jablonicky, Mr. Richard Turcan**, to the **Slovakia Chess Federation**, to the **Mitropa Chess Association**, to **WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet** and to publish the decision on the FIDE website in due course.

DATED AND PUBLISHED ON THIS 23rd March 2026

**CHAMBER CHAIRPERSON
FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**