

27 July 2026

Subject: Expression of Gratitude for Your Support

**Dear Mr. Zvika Barkai, President of the Israeli Chess Federation,
Dear Members of the Council of the Israeli Chess Federation,**

First and foremost, on behalf of the elected Board of the European Chess Union and personally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the invaluable support you have given us.

This was the most difficult election of my chess political career. For approximately six months, a fierce campaign was waged against me. Influential figures from the chess world and powerful financial interests were mobilised in an attempt to influence the election. Moreover, these forces succeeded in creating a division within my original team and splitting it. However, it was precisely after this that our team became even stronger, bringing together even more valuable, principled, and dedicated people.

The Israeli Chess Federation, and you personally, Mr. President, my dear Zvika, supported my renewed team from the very beginning of the campaign. My dear personal friend and, from now on, Honorary Vice President of the ECU, Mr. Moshe Slav, also made an invaluable contribution to our victory.

Once again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and trust. I would like to assure you that the European Chess Union will always be ready to work closely with you and, together with the Israeli Chess Federation, to continue developing and promoting our beloved sport in Israel.

With sincere appreciation and warmest regards,



**Zurab Azmaiparashvili
President
European Chess Union**