E-MAGAZINE SPECIAL EDITION

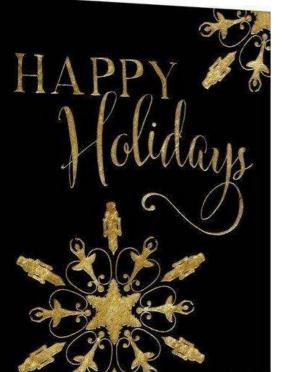




EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN

The 1st European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony took place on 30th November in Monte Carlo.

European Chess Union wish you happy holidays and New Year full of prosperity and success!





EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY

GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY

On November 30 at 20.00. Monte-Carlo (Hotel de Paris. Salle Empire) was hosting the first European chess award ceremony-European Golden Pawn.

The President of the European Chess Union Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and ECU PR and Marketing Director, Mrs. Tea Kipshidze, who proposed, planned and co-rordinated the whole event welcomed all the guests.

The event's hosts were Jamaican-American Chess GM Maurice Ashley and Georgian singer and TV-host Helen Kalandadze.

It was the award ceremony, which marked the beginning of a new tradition - annually reveal the best representatives of the European chess world.



ECU President, his wife Marina Milorava & ECU PR and Marketing Director, Mrs. Tea Kipshidze welcoming the guests

The chess world have been waiting a long time for such a high-scale event. Chess is not just a sport, but an outstanding, intellectual and royal game that deserves to be honoured for its history, tradition and the creative geniuses that have devoted their lives to its practice.





Hosts of the ceremony:
Jamaican
-American
Chess GM
Maurice Ashley
and Georgian
singer and TVhost Helen
Kalandadze.



GOLDEN PAWN

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ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili welcomed the guests of the Ceremony

The person whose tireless efforts resulted to make real this unique event, and leading ECU in a period of fast development as a Sprots organisation, the President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili welcomed the guests with a special speech.



I welcome you and I am glad that we all stand together with our special and boundless love of chess. Establishing a new tradition is nothing more than an attempt to draw people's attention once again and say that chess is a game of wisdom and those who play, as researchers say, have lower risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Logic and a quick mind are integral parts of this royal game. Europe is the home of world chess. In 1924 the World Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in Europe, Paris. Therefore, it is logical that this new initiative of the European Chess Union has come alive on this ancient continent as well. European Golden Pawn -This is the award that from now on will reveal the best of the best in the chess world.

I am pleased to announce that Monaco is the first host of the European Golden Pawn. Monte-Carlo is the city where prominent championships were held before the foundation of the World Chess Organization.

Here, chess has truly been a royal game and has never lacked the attention of the royal family. This tradition continues today with His Serene Highness Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco. I am also pleased to mention our Diamond Sponsor, Georgian Industrial Holding - AiGroup, which has followed the path of the Georgian Maecenas and chess player, Prince Andria Dadiani, and decided to support the European Golden Pawn for 4 years.

In 2019, European Golden Pawn - the sculpture authored by famous Georgian designer Zviad Tsikolia, will be awarded in 12 nominations. This year's awards ceremony will be dedicated to chess legends. In 2020, the European Chess Union turns 35 years old. Certainly, we will have a variety of new projects regarding the anniversary, but one thing will remain unchanged for the time being – the Europeam Golden Pawn will await its next winners.

Today together we are creating a new European chess tradition and I would like us to always remind ourselves that Chess Makes You Smarter...





Diamond Sponsor of European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony was AiGroup, Georgian Industrial Company.

A word by European Golden Pawn Diamond sponsor - AiGroup

First of all, we would like to say that it is a great honor for us to stand by those people who are starting the groundwork for new tradition of honoring the great masters of chess. A tradition that is created in order to promote the game of chess and it is so essential in today's world of artificial intelligence. On the one hand, artificial intelligence is a great achievement of humanity, allowing machine to take over significant share of working environment, on the other, it allows human mind to enjoy the comfort of sitting idle. It is necessary for the human brain to be able to exercise the mind and Chess is exactly the kind of discipline that not only challenges and develops the mind but also expends the potential of thinking.

It is time to once again remind ourselves of the world's great masters and acknowledge them to the new generations and open the next stage for the new names from the world of chess. We know better than anyone how humble the champions are and how they carry their well-deserved title with grace and dignity. We are extremely proud that a country as small as Georgia has not one but two women world champions. For 30 years these women gave pride to every single citizen of Georgia. At the end we will share with you quote of Stefan Zweig: "....no one knows what god put it (chess) on earth to deaden boredom, sharpen the mind, and fortify the spirit?"

Good luck to all the organizers and great success to "European Golden Pawn"!





The author of the ECU anthem, maestro Nikoloz Rachveli

The author of the European Chess Union anthem, composer and conductor, artistic director of the Georgian National Philharmonic Orchestra, goodwill ambassador of UNICEF, maestro Nikoloz Rachveli, gave each of guests a unique chance to travel, with great Chaplin's music, a century back when Monte-Carlo was hosting chess championships. And that was happening even before the World Chess Federation was established.

This year, the European Golden Pawn was awarded in 12 nominations. This first year was dedicated to the Chess Legends who have left an indelible mark in the chess world with their work.



Why a pawn?

The pawn is the only unit on a chessboard that is fighting to be promoted to a desirable piece. It represents the aspiration in all of us to achieve our highest potential.

ABOUT EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN PRIZE AWARD

The European Golden Pawn is designed by the famous Georgian Industrial designer Zviad Tsikolia, who is also known for his watches brand Tsikolia design.



The Winners of the Awards received a special trophy designed by Zviad Tsikolia, whose inspiration for the prize was the unigue ability of a pawn to be promoted and transformed into a queen.

The prize is a play, a sort of dance, between a pawn and a queen.

Some of the awards Zviad Tsikolia received for his design achievements:

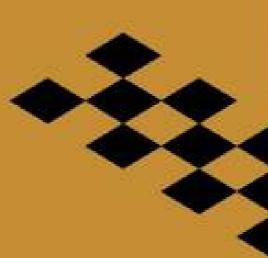
1987 – Bronze medal awarded on the Exhibit of People's Achievements, Moscow; 1993 – Winner of the competition Air Georgia; 2001 – Winner of the Russo-Baltique competition; 2006 – Red Dot Design Award for the design of the Fashion Watch; 2011 – Medal of Honor (Georgia); 2013 – Vakhtang Gorgasali

2014 – Red Dot Design Award for the packaging design.

medal of 2nd degree;



EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN PAWN The Winners







BEST EUROPEAN BOOK (FICTION)-

Ruben David Gonzalez Gallego

"CHESS"

The European Golden
Pawn for the best book on
chess went to "Chess" by
Rubén David González
Gallego. To announce and
award the first winner hosts
gave the floor to the special
guest, former professional
footballer, Predrag
Mijatovic.

About the Winner:

Rubén David González
Gallego (1968) was born in
Moscow, Soviet Union, with
severe cerebral palsy.
Being an orphan diagnosed
with cerebral palsy, he
spent his childhood and
teenage years in
orphanages for disabled
children.

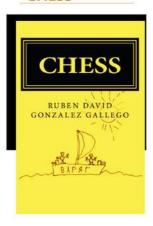
After a series of dramatic twists of fate and living in many countries on several continents, Ruben now lives with his family in Ashkelon, Israel and diligently works on his writing. "White on Black" and "Chess" became bestsellers in many countries.

The book "White and Black" was translated into 25 languages and won the Booker prize.

With "Chess", Ruben David Gonzales Gallego won the European Golden Pawn Award for the best European Book.



The Best European Book (Fiction)
Rubén David González Gallego
"CHESS"



"CHESS"

"...For three years, Misha built a combination in which all the people around him were just chess pieces, and I, Ruben, were the stupidest, most useless pawn... For three years he played his last chess game... He won. He beat me at chess... In chess, there is no subjunctive mood. The flag has fallen..."





THE BEST EUROPEAN MOVIE "THE CHESS GAME"

By the decision of the European Chess Union Board, the European Golden Pawn went to "The Chess Game", a film by Yves Hanchar, starring Denis Lavant, Catherine Deneuve, and Pierre Richard.



Mr. Yves Hanchar was in Madagascar, therefore not able to attend the award ceremony. Mr. Denis Lavant, who portrays a wunderkind chess player, had a justifiable reason as well, he was performing on the stage of a theater in Paris, but sent a video message explaining how he made his chess character even though he didn't know how to play.

"The actors' game would be enough to keep the viewer under the charm: Denis Lavant, breathtaking with strangeness; Pierre Richard, perfect as usual; Catherine Deneuve, enigmatic and sovereign. Well no. Yves Hanchar had not just use these multiple talents. He has also created a world, a baroque and strange world, a dreamlike atmosphere. This work deserves to be (re) discovered." "This is a game that kills me..."

About a movie: "THE CHESS GAME"

In the 1820s, Marquise (Catherine Deneuve) is a wealthy mother living in the Belgian countryside. She decides to hold a chess tournament and offers the hand of her daughter, Anne-Lise (Hilde Heijnen), and a large cash sum as prizes for whoever wins. The eccentric Max (Denis Lavant) is a chess prodigy, but has a tormented relationship with the game. In spite of this, he enters the tournament but faces stiff competition in British champion Lord Staunton (James Wilby).

Initial release: October 19, 1994

Director: Yves Hanchar

Producers: Anne-Dominique Toussaint, Pascal Judelewicz

Screenplay: Yves Hanchar, Josiane Morand



The Best European Magazine
"NEW IN CHESS"

THE BEST EUROPEAN MAGAZINE "NEW IN CHESS"

To announce the winner the President of the Francophone Chess Association Mr. Patrick Van Hoolandt was invited. To receive the European Golden Pawn, the guests welcomed to the stage the editor-in-chief of the magazine, Mr. Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam.

"New In Chess is the premier chess magazine in the world read by club players in 116 countries. Regular columnists are Anish Giri, Jan Timman, Judit Polgar and Nigel Short.

The magazine has regular contributions from all the world's best players. You name them, we have them. That's why New In Chess is also their favorite chess magazine!"

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam



THE BEST EUROPEAN CHESS JOURNALIST - Leontxo Garcia

The hosts invited to the stage the former President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Boris Kutin, who named Leontxo Garcia the Best European Chess Journalist.

> Leontxo García Olasagasti (born February 12, 1956 in Irún, Guipúzcoa) is a Spanish lecturer, presenter, commentator and journalist specialized in chess.

In 1975, at age 19, he became the absolute champion of Guipúzcoa and six years later, in 1981, he achieved the FIDE Master title.

Later he achieved two International Master norms and everything suggested that he would devote to play chess. He was approached, in 1983, by the Basque newspaper Deia to be the special correspondent at the Kasparov–Korchnoi and Smyslov–Ribli matches in London. It was then when he discovered that his vocation as journalist was even stronger than his vocation as player, and shortly after he stopped participating in chess competitions.

"There is no other game that approximates both pure logic and the deduction of modern thought. This simple fact gives enormous educational value to chess... Chess is a gold mine, as yet hardly explored by the press."

Leontxo García





Best European Chess Organizer Bessel KOK





"Question: How come that a successful businessman like you gets interested in the somewhat strange and esoteric mind sports of chess that does not attract big crowds so far?

Answer: It is simple: the love for a game that is both artistic and creative, which may offer so many unique benefits to all of us, may explain my desire to help."

THE BEST EUROPEAN CHESS ORGANIZER - BESSEL KOK

Obviously, everyone understands the importance of the role of the tournament organizer and their big responsibility. The hosts invited to the stage the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro Mr. Srdjan Darmanović, who revealed the name of the person the ECU Board selected as the Winner – Best European Chess Organizer is Bessel Kok.



Bessel Kok

Bessel Kok is a Dutch businessman and chess organiser living in Prague. He was responsible for SWIFT's sponsorship of several major International chess events. Bessel Kok was the Chairman of World Chess Grandmaster Association from 1985 until 1991, and helped to establish the 2002 Prague Agreement concerning the World Chess Championship.



THE BEST EUROPEAN CHESS PROJECT FREDERIC FRIEDEL

Hosts invited to the stage FIDE Deputy President, President of the French Chess Federation, Mr. Bachar Koutley. The European Golden Pawn went to Frederic Friedel, a person who founded the onlineplatform – ChessBase.

In the early 1980s Frederic Friedel did a feature on computer chess and artificial intelligence.
In 1985 he met Garry Kasparov and soon after that co-founded the chess database company ChessBase. From 1983 to 2004 he edited the biggest computer chess magazine in the world, Computer-schach & Spiele, which recently became an online publication.

"Chess is one of the best tools you can have for children to become educated. Not simply to become chess masters, or to become world champions, but to become good in every other subject. When a student learns chess very early, he/she not only learns to think logically, and think ahead, but mainly to concentrate on one subject. While those who don't play chess have an attention span of 10-20 seconds, the chess-playing child concentrates on one small problem on the chess board for two hours."

Frederic Friedel



Frederic Friedel

Friedel served as an advisor to Garry Kasparov during his matches with Deep Blue in 1996 and 1997.

He has been in close contact with many of the world's top chess players, including Kasparov, Anand, Kramnik, Carlsen, Leko, Topalov, Svidler, Short, the Polgar sisters and many others. Today he spends a lot of his time editing the chess news page ChessBase.com.

THE BEST EUROPEAN ARBITER - Geurt Gijssen

The President of the Monaco Chess Federation, Mr. Jean-Michel Rapaire announced the winner of the nomination Best European Arbiter.

"These days I follow the main chess events on the internet. That continues to give me great pleasure. Besides, I read a lot, historical books, literature, and, of course, books on chess, as I am an avid collector of chess books. Meanwhile. I have started playing for my club again, in a veterans team. I keep a keen interest in the chess scene, paying special attention to the rules of the game, that's how it always will be.

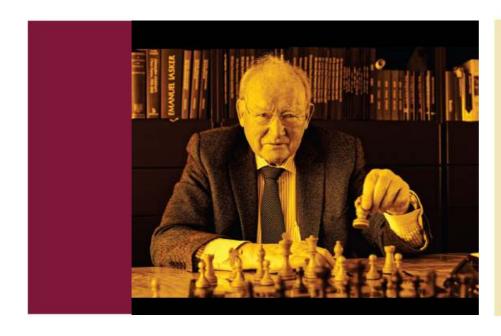


I look back with pleasure on the collaboration with a number of organizers: Jan Rennings (Interpolis). Bessel Kok (SWIFT), Alexander Bach (Aeroflot) and, last but not least, Joop van Oosterom (Max Euwe Association)."

Geurt Gijjsen

Best European Arbiter

Geurt GIJJSEN



Geurt Gijjsen

Geurt Gijssen is well known as a chess tournament referee. He has been the head referee of several Chess Olympiads (1998, 2000, 2002, 2006), as well as several matches and tournaments for World Chess Champion titles: Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov (1987, 1990), Anatoly Karpov – Gata Kamsky (1996), Anatoly Karpov – Vishwanathan Anand (1998), FIDE World Chess Championship (1999), Vladimir Kramnik – Veselin Topalov (2006).



ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou awarded the prize winner-European Pioneer of Chess Development in Schools Mr. Alexander Kostyev.

EUROPEAN PIONEER OF CHESS DEVELOPMENT IN SCHOOLS

The next nomination was historic as well and responded to raising the future generation. The development of chess in schools is nowdays a true of utter importance, hence, this nomination was also significant. The winner in this category, the Moscovite Academic Alexander Kostyev revealed by the Secretary-General of the European Chess Union, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou

"In my opinion, chess education in schools should be based on two components: a) students training in chess using technology; b) the organization of chess events for students. The task of chess education in schools is not training strong chess players, but to involve children in the world of chess, which will help them both in school and in their future life."

Alexander Kostyev







THE YOUNGEST EUROPEAN WORLD CHESS CHAMPION OF ALL TIME MAIA CHIBURDANIDZE

Co-founder of Diamond Sponsor of the European Golden Pawn – Georgian Industrial Holding AiGroup, Mr. Alisher Ikramov announced the winner of the nomination - the European Golden Pawn went to Maia Chiburdanidze.

"Chess is instrumental in developing a number of positive personal qualities, it also assists children in learning school subjects. Most importantly, Chess gets a child used to order and discipline. The more children become involved with chess the better the new generation will be..."

Maia Chiburdanidze



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT - NONA GAPRINDASHVILI

The hosts invited the special guest, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili who announced the winner in the nomination – Lifetime Achievement - Nona Gaprindashvili.



Lifetime Achievement Nona GAPRINDASHVILI Nona Gaprindashvili (born 3 May 1941) is a Georgian chess player and the first woman to be awarded the FIDE title Grandmaster. She was the sixth women's world chess champion (1962–1978).

She was a five-times winner of the Women's Soviet Championship (1964, 1973, 1981, 1983, and 1985) and World and European Senior Women Chess Champion for several times.

"When I played chess, the playing venues were full of people... Chess was extremely popular at the time — practically everyone knew how to play it, even football players. I am very thankful that chess was my sport of choice... I am a chess player at the end of the day!"

Nona Gaprindashvili





European Chess Legend
Judit POLGAR



EUROPEAN CHESS LEGEND JUDIT POLGAR

To reveal the European Chess Legend (Female), the hosts invited to the stage the President of FIDE, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich. The European Golden Pawn went to the strongest female chess player of all time – Judit Polgar.



Judit Polgár (born 23 July 1976) is a Hungarian chess grandmaster. She is generally considered the strongest female chess player of all time. Since September 2015, she has been inactive. In 1991, Polgár achieved the title of Grandmaster at the age of 15 years and 4 months, at the time the youngest to have done so, breaking the record previously held by former World Champion Bobby Fischer. She was the youngest ever player to break into the FIDE Top 100 players rating list, ranking No. 55 in the January 1989 rating list, at the age of 12.

She is the only woman to qualify for a World Championship tournament, having done so in 2005.

She is the first, and to date only, woman to have surpassed 2700 ELO, reaching a career peak rating of 2735 and peak world ranking of No. 8, both achieved in 2005. She was the No. 1 rated woman in the world from January 1989 until the March 2015 rating list, when she was overtaken by Chinese player Hou Yifan; she was the No. 1 again in the August 2015 women's rating list, in her last appearance in the FIDE World Rankings.

Judit Polgar

"Chess is a very special game played by the young and old, girls and boys, poor and rich. It is an amazing game with 1500 years of past, it is an international language that people "speak" all around the world and it unites cultures and generations.

Chess is not only a sport but also gives great contribution to science, art, and education."

EUROPEAN CHESS LEGEND- GARRY KASPAROV

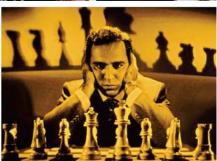
European Golden Pawn Award for the European Chess Legend (male) came to Garry Kasparov.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and the official representative of His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco, adviser of His Serene Highness, the President of the World Olympians Association, President and Founder of Peace and Sport Mr. Joel Bouzou opened the last remaining envelope and announced the owner of the last European Golden Pawn - Garry Kasparov -One of the most epic personalities in the history of chess - the person, the legend.



Garry Kasparov

"Apart from inspiring the kids, learning chess provides proven benefits in concentration, logic, memory, creativity, and mental discipline. Studies from around the world have shown academic improvement in every area where chess is introduced into the curriculum, not just in math and science. Plus, chess a lot cheaper than a football stadium!"



European Chess Legend Garry KASPAROV

Garry Kasparov gave the simultaneous exhibithion for the kids, in the lobby of the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo, before the start of the European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony.



Garry Kasparov

Garry Kasparov is a Russian chess grandmaster, former world chess champion, whom many consider to be the greatest chess player of all time. From 1986 until his retirement in 2005, Kasparov was ranked world No. 1 for 225 out of 228 months. Kasparov also holds records for consecutive professional tournament victories (15) and Chess Oscars (11).



ECU Medal -Honorary Award

As Mr. Bouzou was the representantive of H.S.H Prince Albert II of Monaco Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili had the honour to give him the special award – Honorary Medal - on behalf of the European Chess Union to H.S.H Prince Albert II of Monaco.



The Vice President of the European Chess Union, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola gave the Outstanding Sponsor Medal to the chairman of the board of directors of AiGroup Mr. Kakhaber Guledani. AiGroup is the owner of the Prince Andria Dadiani medal.

ECU Medal – Outstanding Sponsor

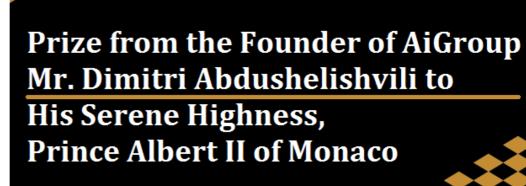
The European Chess Union expressed profound appreciation to the Diamond Sponsor of the European Golden Pawn, Georgian industrial holding-AiGroup - and personally its founder, Mr. Dimitri Abdushelishvili, who was the first person to support the European Chess Union project and made this wonderful event possible. AiGroup's representatives were on the event including co-founder Mr. Alisher Ikramov and the chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Kakhaber Guledani.

The European Chess Union decided to establish a prize, which from now on will be awarder to an Outstanding Sponsor who supports decisively the popularization of chess and how chess promotes the intellectual development.

This medal was given the name of Prince Andria Dadiani, who sponsored several chess championships in Monte-Carlo in the beginning of the 20th century and established the prize fund himself as well.

On Behalf of Mr. Dimitri Abdushelishvili the chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Kakhaber Guledani gave the special prize to the representer of H.S.H Prince Albert II of Monaco Mr. Joel Bouzou.

> It was the Gold Qvevri performed as a vehicle designed by Zviad Tsikolia.







1st EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY

European Chess Union Board has decided to establish the annual award ceremony – "European Golden Pawn" – that will be held every year on the last Saturday of November in Monaco (Monte-Carlo). First year of the award ceremony was dedicated to European legends and their achievements and took place on 30th November in historical Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo.

Next year, when the European Chess Union celebrates its anniversary, ECU turns 35, the European Chess Union will greet guests in Monaco with new nominations and new winners.

Chess makes you smarter...



ECU PR &
Marceting
Director, Mrs.
Tea Kipshidze
and event
Director
Mrs.Basa
Potskhishvili

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY

The Event was planned and co-ordinated by the ECU PR and Marketing Director:

Ms.Tea Kipshidze

Event Director:

Basa Potskhishvili

Art-director: **Tamar Potskhishvili**

Production: **Studio 1,2,3.**

For the support, the European Chess Union thanked to:
Mr. Veselin Drašković; Mr.
Moshe Slav; Mr. & Mrs.
Vagman; Mr. Sergey Egorov;
Company Ave-Kontakt and
Mr. Jiri Petruzalek; Company
Ave-Kontakt and Mr. Dr. Jan
Mazuch; Winery Khareba and
Mr. Tengiz Kharebava.

The ceremony was attended by the official representative of His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco, President of the World Olympians Association, President and Founder of Pease and Sport, Vice-President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne – Mr. Joel Bouzou; President of the European Chess Union Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili; Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili: the Minister of Foreigner Affairs of Montenegro Mr.Srdjan Darmanovic;FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the AiGroup Mr. Kakhaber Guledani and the representatives of the Georgian Industrial Holding AiGroup; former and famous footballer Predrag Mijatovic officials of the ECU and FIDE Boards, Federations' Presidents & Representatives, business, sports and art personalities.





LIVE broadcast of the Golden Pawn

The event was LIVE broadcasted, as well as the side events, through the Facebook page of European Golden Pawn.

All the videos are available here.







Press conference 30 November with participation of ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, representative of the Diamond Sponsor The Georgian Industrial holding AiGroup – Mr. Giorgi Khurodze, President of Monaco Chess Federation Mr. Jean-Michel Rapaire and Chess Legend – Garry Kasparov

Golden Pawn Award Ceremony was marked with many art performances.

ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou awarded European Pioneer of Chess Development in Schools: Mr. Alexander Kostyev

Chess legend, Garry Kasparov, on the crowded simultaneous exhibition in Monte Carlo, against 16 kids. All the participants of the simul received special certificates.





Juga with a premiere of the song Tactical, which she dedicated to Mikhail Tal





Before the Gala-dinner of the first European Golden Pawn started the guests made their signatures as part of the most memorable day.









Beautiful Carmen and Kenneth Bailey – Parole, Parole

ECU Vice President, Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola at the entrance of the Golden Pawn Ceremony venue

Toast with Georgian Wine Winery Khareba –
European Golden Pawn
supporter

Choreographic Performance Maestro Nikoloz Rachveli, the NuArt quartet and amazing artists -Eliza Cipriani and Luca Condello



Chess makes You smarters



AIGROUP



