

GREEK CHESS FEDERATION

PRESS RELEASE 1

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The international chess tournament "Acropolis 2008" commenced today with the participation of 84 chessplayers from 22 countries. Among them one may find 54 titled players, 25 of them holders of the grandmaster title for men or women, top Greek chessplayers as well as several talented young athletes from Greece and abroad. Youngest participant of the tournament is 12-year-old Daniel Fernandez from Singapore(!).

Most of the favourites succeeded in overcoming their opponents in the 1st round games, but there were some surprises as well. 6-time Greek champion Hristos Banikas had to contend himself with a draw against Katerina Fakhiridou, while Bulgarian grandmaster Atanas Kolev could not overcome the resistance of the Greek champion under 16, Nikos Aggelis. WIM Ioulia Makka was on top for most of her game against the strong Georgian Nana Dzagnidze, but eventually could not bring the point home. Also worth mentioning are the victories of Maria-Anna Stefanidi against the Hungarian WGM Anna Rudolf and of the upcoming young female player Katerina Pavlidou against the experienced FIDE Master Efstathios Gazis.

"Acropolis 2008" is organized by the Greek Chess Federation and the Prefecture of Athens, which actively supports the event for the second consecutive year. The Hellenic Post Bank is the sponsor of the tournament.

The event is held at President Hotel (43 Kifissias Avenue, "Europa" Hall) and will last until August 17th. Starting time everyday is 17.00' (14.00' at 17/8). Admittance for spectators is free. The event is covered by the GCF website (www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008) with results, standings, games, photos as well as live transmission of the most important games of each round.