

November 19, 2018

**Kings' Tournament - ROMGAZ**  
**Twelfth edition, 19-21 November 2018**  
**In memoriam Elisabeta Polihroniade**

“**Kings' Tournament - Romgaz**” is one of the most appreciated competition of its kind worldwide, recognized by the Chess Romanian Federation as well as the International Federation (FIDE), organized by the Association „Elisabeta Polihroniade Sport Club” with Romgaz’s support.

On its twelfth edition in 2018, **Kings' Tournament - Romgaz** celebrates the 1918 Great Union Centenary, inviting Romanian chess masters of the diaspora and the country to dispute the two trophies: “Kings' Tournament - Romgaz” (men’s tournament) and “In memoriam Elisabeta Polihroniade” (women’s tournament).

The 2018 men’s tournament protagonists are **GM Liviu Dieter-Nisipeanu**, gold winner of the European Chess Championship, **GM Mircea Emilian Pârligras**, double national champion who represented Romania at eight Chess Olympiads, **GM Andrei Istrățescu** with two national championship titles, and **GM Viorel Iordăchescu**, national champion of the Republic of Moldova.

**IM Irina Bulmaga**, representing Romania in four Chess Olympiads and national champion in 2018, **IM Alina L’Ami** and **WGM Iozefina Păuleț** from Holland and **WGM Sabina Francesca Foișor**, national champion of USA in 2017 will play in the women’s tournament „In Memoriam Elisabeta Polihroniade”.

**The 2018 Kings' Tournament - Romgaz** starts in Bucharest on **the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, at the Bucharest Polytechnic University, the Lecture Hall**, with a Press Conference at 1:30 PM and the Tournament Opening Ceremony at 2:30 PM. Scheduled to start at 3PM are the simultaneous games played by **Great Master Florin Gheorghiu**, multiple national champion. The Kings’ Tournament (first 3 rounds of rapid chess), and the **Junior Kings’ Tournament** –(Chess Tournament for 8 -14 aged players) will also start at 3 PM.

The Kings’ Tournament will continue on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 starting from 3 PM. The School Team Tournament will also start at 3 PM **on 20 November 2018**. The Kings’ Tournament (blitz) and Students Tournament will start **on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2018**, at 1 PM. The Award Ceremony will start at 4 PM.

**The Mediaș** programe includes: Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, at 1 PM,- Kings’ Junior online; on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of November at 3 PM - online game between the best junior chess players of Mediaș and Bucharest, and on Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, at 1 PM – Open Romgaz online (Mediaș-Bucharest).

Guests of honor of the 2018Kings’ Tournament are Florin Gheorghiu, Great Master and multiple national champion, **Alexander Kostyev** – President of ISCU (International School Chess Union), and Mr.Sorin Avram Iacoban – President of the Romanian Chess Federation.

**Academician Constantin Bălăceanu – Stolnici** will be special guest of the twelfth edition of the **Kings’ Tournament**.

By investing in intelligence, the organizers and the supporters of this competition would like to continue the tradition started in 2007 with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Kings’ Tournament, and especially to promote the mind sport in Romania.

### Romgaz’s Press Office

## **About the Kings' Tournament - Romgaz**

*The first edition of The Kings' Tournament organised in Bazna in 2007 proved to be a unique and a very appreciated edition, the organisers bringing together chess glories of the 70's and 80's, former world champions, whom the mind sport's fans wanted to meet and see them play: Khalifman Alexander, Vaganian Rafael, Beliavsky Alexander, Anderson Ulf, Ribli Zoltan, Mecking Henrique, Sokolov Andrei, Chiburdanidze Maia, Portischi Lajos, Suba Mihai, Timman Jan. In that year, the tournament was won by Khalifman Alexander, from Russia.*

*In 2008, Romgaz continued the tournament together with the Sports Club Association "Elisabeta Polihroniade". A pleasant surprise of this edition was the legendary Boris Spassky who chaired the tournament. The winner of the tournament was Short Nigel from England.*

*The Ukrainian Vassily Ivanchuk won the first place of the tournament in 2009, the second being the Israeli Boris Gelfand. As a national first, during the tournament the chess grandmaster, Henrique Costa Mecking, from Brazil, launched a biographical book, in Romanian.*

*Due to special competition conditions assured by the organisers, to notoriety and appreciation from Grand Slam's Chess Association, The Kings' Tournament was included in the 2010 Grand Slam circuit, together with other competitions, such as Nanjing China, Wijk aan Zee Netherlands (started in 1938), Linares (started in 1978) and Bilbao, Spain, before other similar tournaments from The Russian Federation, England, USA and Argentina.*

*After two editions dedicated to the chess glories of the 1980's and 1990's, and after the third edition which represented a powerful contest of XX category, The Kings Tournament reached its top in 2010 (average rating: 2742) by the participation of world number one, the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen, who, only at 19 years old, had a rating of 2813. The Kings' Tournament was won by the Nordic Carlsen, who imposed himself during five chess matches and tied the other five matches.*

*Until 2013, The Kings' Tournament was dominated by the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen and the Ukrainian Vassily Ivanchuk. The edition of that year was won by the Italian Fabiano Caruna.*

*As of 2014, the new format of the Kings' Tournament was a team contest, a match between the Olympic teams of Romania and China – the en-titre Olympic Champion, in Scheveningen system, where each player of a team meets a player of the opponent team.*

*In 2015, the winner of the team competition was Germany, who defeated the Romanian team. The tournament's individual winner was Bogdan-Daniel Deac, determined by tiebreaker rules.*

*The 2016 edition was attended by the world multiple champion Anatol Karpov, as guest and, among others, as players, by the en-titre World Champion Hou Yifan (China), the former classical world chess champion Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), and the men and women teams of Romania.*

*The 2017 edition started in a festive atmosphere in Bucharest in the presence of the former world champion Anatoly Karpov, celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kings' Tournament entering the agenda of high quality international competitions. The 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, In Memoriam Elisabeta Polihroniade, developed under the form of two closed men – women tournaments (round-robin) and reunited international players, such as Sergei Karjakin (Russia), en-titre world champion in rapid chess, Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Bogdan-Daniel Deac (Romania), Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine), double world champion Pia Cramling (Sweden), Elisabeth Paehtz (Germany) - Germany's number one since 2004, and multiple national champion in rapid and blitz chess, and Corina-Isabela Peptan (Romania). The winners of 2017 edition were Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), men, and Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine), women - en-titre world champion in rapid and blitz chess.*

**About Romgaz**

*Romgaz is the largest natural gas producer and the main supplier in Romania. The company is listed on Bucharest Stock Exchange and GDRs are traded on London Stock Exchange. It is a joint stock company whose majority shareholder is the Romanian State owning a 70% stake. The company has a vast experience in the field of gas exploration and production and a history that began in 1909. Romgaz undertakes geologic research in order to discover new gas reserves, produces methane by exploiting the reservoirs included in the company's portfolio, stores natural gas in underground deposits, performs well interventions, workover and special operations, and technological transportation. In 2013, Romgaz extended its scope of work by taking over the Iernut thermoelectric power station, and thus it became an electric power supplier, as well.*