



**MINISTER
OF SPORT AND TOURISM**

Witold Bańka

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Warsaw, 13 March 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Youth U18 Team Chess Championship will be held from the 16th to 24th August 2017 in Rymanów Zdrój. Given the high profile of the event, it is organized under the honorary patronage of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism.

The European Youth U18 Team Chess Championships have been held since 2000. In August 2017, the picturesque town of Rymanów Zdrój, located in the Lower Beskid mountains, will become the chess capital of Europe. This year's tournament will gather over 20 teams from member countries of the European Chess Union. The young male and female players taking part in the competitions will, in the future, represent their counties in the main master class events.

Chess is an exciting and interesting sport, one of the oldest and most popular board games in the world. This royal game requires self-discipline, perseverance and an exceptional level of attention. Chess players have particular abilities in the area of strategic thinking and factual analysis. Sport is not only physical effort. To achieve global-level results, strong mental skills are required. Chess players repeatedly show the importance of the power of the mind.

I wish all the players and coaches true success in the European Youth U18 Team Chess Championship in Rymanów Zdrój. I hope the event will also be an unforgettable experience for the audience. Let the matches of the young chess players stay in our memories for a longtime.

with best regards,