

# Intervention de Léo Battesti

## Président de la Ligue Corse des Échecs



MEP Ana-Claudia Tapardel and MEP Silvia Costa  
together with ECU  
have the pleasure to invite you to

# CHESS IN SCHOOL CONFERENCE



## European Parliament

**24th of February 2016,  
16:30-18:30 hrs., Hall A1E1**

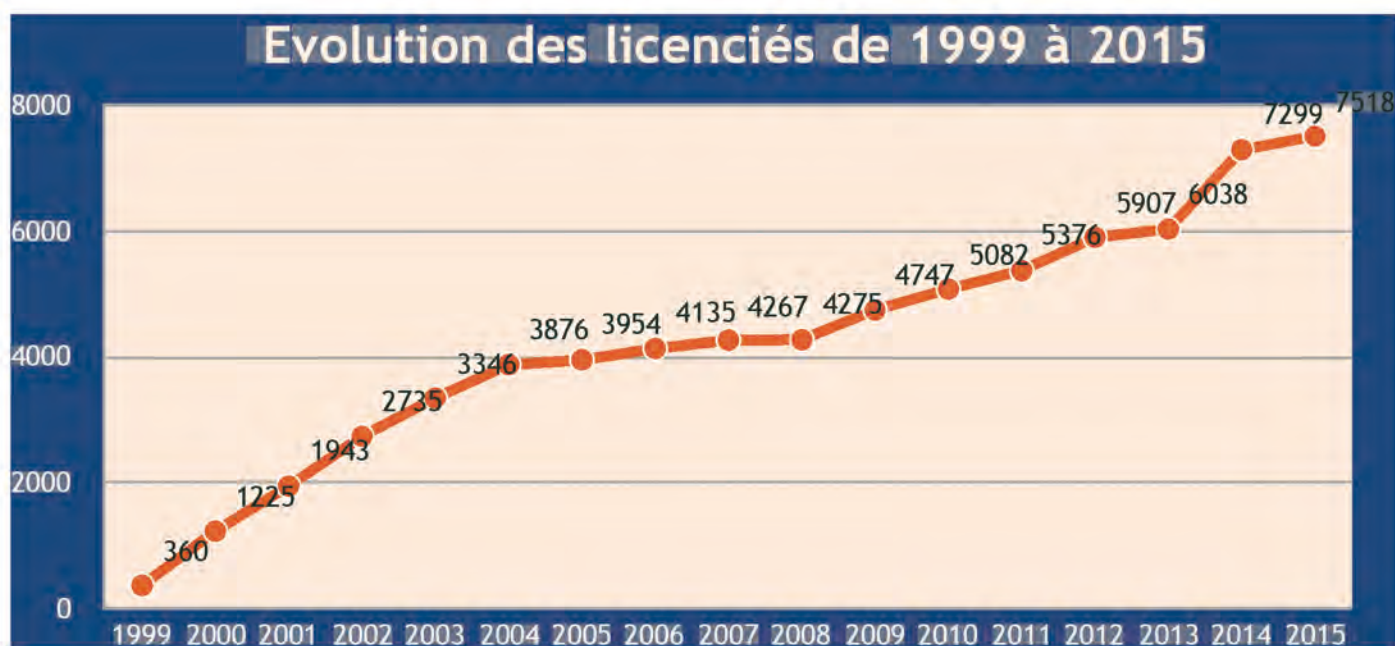


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# Corsica, land of Chess



Corsica: **320 000 inhabitants**

**45 000 schoolchildren** initiated into chess the last 17 years **during the school time**

25 chess teachers including 18 employees by the Corsican league

**2015-2016...**

**5 619** schoolchildren concerned

**243** classes in **70** schools - **6 800** theoretical teaching sessions per year

But also **800** secondary school pupils and **50** students (University of Corsica)

Many **bilingual instructional books**

a monthly magazine, 4 learning manuals, several workbooks

Around **400 tournaments** a year.

Among which the largest mass event in the world in June to Bastia (3 500 players)

**Corsican elo**

200 points for under 6 , 300 for under 8 etc.. Immediate evolution

<http://elo.corse-echecs.com/>

## Our means

### - Agreements

with the « Rectorat » authorizing intervention in school time  
with the « Collectivité Territoriale de Corse, » unanimous vote of the corsican Assembly  
with the 2 « Conseils départementaux »  
with the most important municipalities of the island

### - Sponsors

many companies (more than 100 for all our tournaments) and an official partner  
[oscaro.com](http://oscaro.com) (mondial leader in the sale of car parts on the internet)

Total **Budget** : 1 M €

### - Communication

Strong communication: all newspapers, radio and tv Corsica regularly treat events.  
A program devoted to chess : «échec et mat »  
A very popular website : [corse-echecs.corsica](http://corse-echecs.corsica)

### - International Events

**Corsican Circuit** : 100 000 € of prizes

**International Open of Calvi** (10 000 €) - **Purticciu** (15 000 €)

**Porto-vecchio** champions Match (Karpov, Spassky, Carlsen, Radjabov, Judith Polgar, Hou Yifan, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Vishy Anand, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave etc...)

**European Youth tournament** in Bastia

**Blitz** tournaments in july (18 000 € of prizes)



## How to explain this success ?

- **The first reason**

**we start from almost nothing** so...we could easily avoid an elitist conception

- **The most important reason**

we have developed a **strategy based on the synergy** between clubs and schools with the effect of **developing chess economy**

As we have **significantly broadened the base of the pyramid**, our summit is **much higher**

15 years ago we were pleased to have a young player in 20th position in the french championship, now we have several titles and podium.

Today Chess is the first sport in Corsica for children aged 5 to 16 years old **before football!**

