

Comments from Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

A bit late with the answers but there were many things to do once in Rotterdam.

I learned about the postponement through various messages from FIDE officials, including an official email that was sent out around 11:30 local time.

Delay might have consequences for every player. It's hard to speculate on those and I'm just taking the situation as is, as we knew postponing was a serious possibility, in spite of all the efforts made so that the tournament could be held in the first place.

I didn't know whether it would start and whether it would be fully completed. With every day the situation was getting worse in other countries but at the same time the situation was out of my control and very unpredictable so I just lived with it.

I feel it's not really my place to comment on the Radjabov/Fide feud. Obviously Radjabov turned out to be right in the sense that the tournament ultimately had to be postponed midway. At that time though, there was reason to believe the tournament could be conducted and all other players ultimately went to play.

We ended up leaving at 4:50am, FIDE didn't give a reason for why we couldn't finish the tournament and go home on an authorized flight, but at the same time given the amount of complications to secure one charter flight for us, I do understand their concern as they would have needed two charter flights, one for the Western part and one for the Eastern, and to get an agreement not only with local authorities but also with other airports, it would have been a gamble that understandably no one was prepared to take anymore. Hopefully, everyone makes it back home safely now, that is what matters.