

## JOINT STATEMENT

by the National Basketball Federations of Germany, Greece, Italy, Russia, Spain and Turkey

Geneva, 22 September 2017

\* \* \*

**Reaffirming** the unanimous adoption of the new competition format and reinstatement of the long-standing calendar by FIBA World Congresses and Central Boards, following a lengthy and worldwide consultation process, which guarantee:

- the worldwide growth of basketball through national team competitions;
- regular exposure of 80 national teams with home-and-away games throughout the year;
- the decrease of the wear and tear factor for players, by reducing the workload by an average of 26% per player globally during an Olympic cycle and providing longer rest periods; and

**Emphasising** the unique capability of national teams to unite the fans, bring the popularity of basketball to new levels and bring forward new talents, as proven again at the recent FIBA EuroBasket 2017;

**Appreciative and Respectful** of the important role of clubs in the development of basketball at national and international level;

**Disappointed** by the irresponsible position of Euroleague Commercial Assets (ECA), which prioritises its commercial interests over the good of basketball as a whole and over the interests of

- Clubs, by limiting access to the Euroleague and abusing its market position for the commercial benefit of a small minority;
- Domestic leagues, by removing the leagues' decision-making power over Euroleague, by infringing on their traditional weekend game schedule through introducing games on Fridays and by taking the sporting right of the vast majority of national champions to play in the highest European competition;
- Players, by increasing the Euroleague gamedays from 24 to 37;

and, most recently, also

- National Teams, by intending to marginalise them, e.g. when scheduling Euroleague games on the same date as the World Cup Qualifiers games announced 2 years earlier or when suggesting to squeeze qualification tournaments and main competitions within 4 weeks in July;

**Concerned** that the actions of ECA will continue to lead players to leagues outside Europe, predominantly the NBA and China;

**Acknowledging** the publicly expressed will of players to represent their country;

**Insisting** that 213 national member federations of FIBA along with their leagues, clubs and players will not succumb to the financial interests, pressures and threats of Euroleague Commercial Assets (ECA);



1