

**A campaign initiated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and FIBA**



**Supported by the Turkish Basketball Federation, the Spanish Basketball Federation and the Turkish National Police**



## **FIBA 2010 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DECLARATION FOR ROAD SAFETY**

### ***Play and drive by the rules***

We, basketball players and the representatives of the International Basketball Federation, the Turkish Basketball Federation, the Turkish National Police and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, commit ourselves to helping to make roads a safer place and to spreading the road safety message across the world in order to save lives.

We, as athletes, cannot imagine playing a basketball game without rules or participating in a game in which only some people follow the rules. It would hardly be a fair game.

Road traffic safety is an issue which affects us all. Regrettably, many people still do not play by the rules when they get behind the wheel. People are killed or are made disabled for the rest of their lives just because someone else has been trying to cheat in traffic.

The basketball community frequently travels by road and as such is exposed to varying traffic conditions and dangers from country to country.

We are committed to doing our best to help avoid tragedies such as the deaths of our much-admired basketball players Radivoj Korać, who died in a car crash in 1969 at the age of 30, and Dražen Petrović, who also died in a car crash in 1993, four months before his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We are all aware that traffic rules exist to help road users avoid loss of life and damage to health. However, individuals often do not recognize the importance of complying with road rules, thinking that a mistake, a minor 'bending' of the rules or a lapse in judgment, affects only them. Sadly, this is rarely the case.

Each year nearly 1.3 million people die as a result of road traffic crashes worldwide. This is more than 3,000 deaths each day. More than half of these casualties are pedestrians, cyclists or other road users not travelling in a car! Road traffic injuries are the leading causes of death for children and young people aged 5 - 29 years. In addition, on average 20 to 50 million people sustain non-fatal injuries from road traffic crashes each year. These injuries are a significant cause of disabilities worldwide.

But these are **not** accidents. They are events that can be **prevented** through the daily actions and awareness of us all. Our goal is to engage society in this struggle and to encourage respect for the rules of the road.

We, the players, commit ourselves to following the following 8 simple rules:

- **Do NOT drive when tired, after drinking alcohol or taking drugs!**
- **Do NOT use mobile phones while driving!**
- **Stay within the speed limit!**
- **Always respect road signs and signals!**
- **Always wear seatbelts, both in the front and back of the vehicle!**
- **Be patient, share roads safely with pedestrians, cyclists and other road users!**
- **Protect children by using approved child restraint systems!**
- **Wear approved helmets while riding two-wheelers!**

We are aware that it has been proved beyond any doubt, time and time again, that these eight simple rules save lives and prevent damage to health. As we always play by the rules, we drive by the rules. Foul play always ends up in someone getting hurt.

Bearing this in mind, we, basketball players and representatives of the basketball community, along with the Turkish National Police and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, call upon all to respect road traffic rules.