



Conference on Improving Road Traffic Safety in South-Eastern Europe Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets

Hosted by Evia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association with the support of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Greece

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"Team Work and Fair Play on Basketball Courts and on Our Roads" - Statement by the Greek National Basketball Champions (DRAFT) -

*As champion basketball players, we know it is only through **team work** that we can be successful.*

*As professionals, we understand the importance of **fair play** to maintain integrity.*

*As a team, we have experienced that by **setting targets** we can achieve our goals.*

While basketball only holds significance for some, road traffic safety is an issue which affects us all. We therefore call for team work and fair play in maintaining safe roads both across Greece and elsewhere. We ask that strategic targets be set to achieve tangible results.

1.2 million people die in road traffic crashes every year worldwide. Millions more are injured and disabled. But these are **not** accidents. They are events that can be prevented through daily action and awareness. Our aim is to engage society in this struggle and to encourage respect for the rules of the road.

Regulations exist to help road users avoid the loss of life, health and property. Individuals often do not recognize the importance of complying with road rules, thinking a mistake, a minor "bending" of the rules or a lapse in judgment affects only them. Sadly, this is rarely the case.

What can we do to help make roads safer?

- Use seatbelts - every day, every time, both in the front and back of the car
- Use approved child restraint systems
- Wear approved helmets while riding two-wheelers
- Respect speed limits – they exist for a reason
- Do not use mobile phones while driving
- Do not drive whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- Share the road safely with pedestrians and cyclists

By keeping these things in mind, by being a good citizen and fellow road user, we can reduce the high rate of accidents which dominate our roads.

Foul play always ends up hurting someone. Let us start now to work as a team and play fair in traffic. As athletes, it is up to us to enforce it on the court. But it is up to all of us to practice it on the road.