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TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

19 November 2010

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that FIBA Europe will endorse the Seventh consecutive Special Olympics European Basketball Week to be held 27 November – 5 December 2010, across the region. The concept of SO European Basketball Week is for everyone within the European basketball community to do something to expand opportunities for players with intellectual disabilities.

It is the flagship event of the FIBA Europe-Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) partnership which began in May 2004. Since then, I'm proud to tell you the number of Special Olympics basketball players in the region has increased from 13,000 to 53,000. This year 15,000 players with intellectual disabilities from 30 countries will participate in a wide range of activities during European Basketball Week.

The theme for 2010 is "Basketball for Everyone" creating an opportunity for more children to join the sports experience. Another particular emphasis of the week will be on Unified Basketball where players with and without intellectual disabilities play in one team. The experience allows participants to develop sports skills, build friendships and exhibit courage and confidence.

One of the highlights of our partnership with Special Olympics has been the involvement of National Basketball Federations and professional clubs providing officials, conducting clinics and endorsing Special Olympics events.

FIBA Europe continues its endorsement of the Special Olympics European Basketball Week because sport plays an integral role in society and touches many people in a highly positive and participatory way. Special Olympics uses sport as a catalyst to change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and to promote respect, acceptance and inclusion.

If you have any questions about our partnership with Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you want to find out more about Special Olympics visit their website at www.specialolympicsee.org.

Sincerely,

Nar Zanolin
Secretary General
FIBA Europe e.V.