



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE BASKETBALL

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PRESS RELEASE

No. 36/2001
Date: 19. 09.2001

European Championship Review

Young players take European basketball towards the future

Almost two weeks after the end of the European Championship for Men held in Atanlya, Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, FIBA has gathered all the numbers, which prove that the Championship was a huge success.

Media Coverage

A total of 800 journalists from the written press, television and radio were present in the three cities of the event. Television transmissions were made to a total of 45 countries by 26 different broadcasters. Those broadcasters assembled a total of 610 hours of television programming, not including the various news access and highlights which were shown.

Sensational ratings were achieved in Turkey, but also in Germany, which has not been one of the strongholds in Europe regarding television coverage until now.

Spectator interest

A total of 95,000 spectators poured into the arenas in the three cities. 15,250 spectators crossed the turnstiles in Antlaya, while both other venues were sold out, with 30,000 fans attending games in Ankara and 50,000 in Istanbul.

Open Championship

Before the Championship all the experts were predicting that this European Championship was one of the most balanced ever. They were proved right and 14 of the 16 teams had a chance to play for the medals. There were some big upsets along the way as well, with defending champion Italy, Olympic bronze medallists Lithuania and perennial powers Greece and Slovenia all falling by the wayside in the Preliminary Round. This made the Championship one of the most exciting ever, and the drama was further increased by the prominent roles played by so many young players for their teams. Young guns such as Pau Gasol (Spain), Gordan Giricek (CRO), Marko Jaric (YUG), Kaspars Kambala (Latvia), Andrei Kirilenko (Russia), Dirk Nowitzki (Germany), Tony Parker (France), Hidayet Turkoglu (Turkey), and many more all showed us that they are ready to take European basketball to a new level.

The excitement on the court also drew a big number of Presidents from the National Federations, celebrities and high ranking politicians to the games. President of the Turkish Republic Mr. Necdet Sezer, Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Zoran Djindic and Spanish Secretary of State for Sport Mr. Juan-Antonio Gomez-Angulo, all attended the final.

FIBA's thanks go out to the Turkish Basketball Federation and their army of 400 volunteers, whose hospitality made everyone feel at home in their country.



