

**Mr Andrei Kirilenko**  
President  
Russian Basketball Federation  
8, Luzhnetskaya Naberezhnaya  
119270 Moscow  
Russia

By e-mail

15 April 2016

Dear Mr President,

We are writing in relation to recent developments in the European club competitions.

As you are aware, Euroleague Commercial Assets (ECA) organises the tournaments Euroleague and Eurocup. ECA does not allow all clubs to participate in the organization of its leagues, its governing rules (and procedures for adopting such rules) are not transparent, it hinders its member organizations from participating in other leagues and does not provide access to its leagues and clubs on fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory terms. Supporting or participating in such anticompetitive arrangements is contrary to competition law and the principles of FIBA, FIBA Europe, and its National Member Federations.

For this reason, FIBA and FIBA Europe have submitted a complaint to the European Commission against ECA's anticompetitive practices. ECA's decisions and agreements with its member clubs and leagues infringe Article 101(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Also, ECA is abusing its monopoly and dominant positions to tie clubs to its own events and to discriminate against financially weaker clubs in violation of Article 102 TFEU.

As a reaction to ECA's practices, FIBA Europe's Board took a decision – in the presence of representatives of more than 20 countries – which was communicated to you on 24 March 2016. This decision has now become final and reads in relevant part as follows:

*"[...] any National Federation that supports ECA's illegal tying practices by allowing their leagues or clubs to conclude and/or implement agreements with ECA, or any other entity directly or indirectly linked to it, **will automatically lose the right to participate in Senior men national team competitions organised by FIBA Europe.**"*

**Turgay Demirel**  
President

**Kamil Novak**  
Executive Director &  
Legal Representative

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Despite the above, and according to publicly available information, the VTB United League – in which your Federation owns shares and/or has club(s) participating – has concluded an agreement with ECA for a period of three years. The details are published e.g. under

<http://www.vtb-league.com/en/news/edinaya-liga-vtb-soglasilas-zaklyuchit-trehletnee-soglashenie-s-evroliigoy.htm>

In addition to infringing EU and national competition laws and FIBA's regulatory framework, there are also doubts whether such agreement is in compliance with the contractual documents and declarations signed by the VTB United League, your National Federation and the clubs-shareholders of the VTB United last summer. FIBA Europe reserves all its rights in this respect.

As a result of the above, your Federation has already lost its right to participate in Senior men national team competitions organised by FIBA Europe, such as the Eurobasket 2017.

In the event that your Federation has proof that the above-mentioned facts are not true, **it is invited to submit it to FIBA Europe until Wednesday, 20 April 2016.**

Upon request of the FIBA Europe Board, a copy of this letter is being sent to FIBA, which is competent to take any decisions it deems necessary regarding worldwide events.

Best regards,



Kamil Novak  
FIBA Executive Director Europe

Cc: Mr Horacio Muratore, FIBA President  
Mr Patrick Baumann, FIBA Secretary General  
Board of FIBA Europe

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