

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 4 December 2025

ULEB officially changes name to European Basketball Leagues; Denmark's Basketligaen admitted as newest member

The General Assembly of ULEB (Union des Ligues Européennes de Basket-ball), meeting yesterday in Brussels, has

officially approved the organization's name change to **European Basketball Leagues**.

The decision marks an important step in the evolution of the association, which represents professional national leagues that form the backbone of European basketball.



The Assembly also unanimously approved the admission of **Basketligaen (Denmark)**, which becomes the 13th member of the organization.

A name reflecting clarity, unity and ambition

The transition to *European Basketball Leagues* is driven by several key considerations:

- Clarity and Transparency – a clear and transparent identity that accurately reflects the organization's mission and members
- Stronger Identity – the name directly communicates who the organization represents: the professional leagues operating national competitions across Europe
- Inclusiveness and Unity – it emphasizes the collective nature of the organization, bringing together diverse leagues under a shared framework and reinforcing the idea of a united voice for European professional basketball.
- Renewal and Ambition – the change signals a forward-looking vision aligned with the organization's strengthened strategic priorities and the need for modern, coherent governance in European basketball.

A manifesto for the future

To accompany the name change, European Basketball Leagues has published a **manifesto** outlining its renewed intentions and strategic focus while establishing a clear reference framework for dialogue

with all stakeholders in the evolving European basketball landscape.

Key priorities include strengthening national leagues, establishing a coordinated international calendar, promoting a rational and fan-friendly competition structure, supporting player welfare and fostering constructive dialogue among all stakeholders.

The full manifesto is attached to this press release.

Tomas Van Den Spiegel, President of European Basketball Leagues, stated:

“The name ‘European Basketball Leagues’ reflects who we are and what we aim to build. Our leagues are the foundation of European basketball, and this renewed identity reinforces our commitment to their role at continental level. We are equally pleased to welcome Basketligaen as our newest member, broadening our representation and strengthening unity among Europe’s professional leagues.”

Basketligaen becomes newest member

With the admission of **Basketligaen**, European Basketball Leagues now represents **13 leagues** across the continent. This expansion further reinforces the organization’s cooperative platform, enabling leagues to share best practices, address common challenges and contribute collectively to a more coherent and sustainable basketball ecosystem.



Emil Bødker, CEO of Basketligaen, commented:

“We are proud to join European Basketball Leagues. For Basketligaen, this is an important step in strengthening Danish basketball at all levels. We look forward to contributing to the shared work of the organization and helping shape a more coordinated and future-oriented basketball landscape in Europe.”

European Basketball Leagues will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to support a unified and sustainable future for the sport.

About European Basketball Leagues:

European Basketball Leagues, formerly ULEB, was founded in 1992 and aims to develop and to defend the rights of the European domestic leagues and their clubs. European Basketball Leagues members today include ACB (Spain), LNB (France), BBL (Germany), HEBA (Greece), BeNeLeague Basketball (Belgium and the Netherlands), Legabasket (Italy), VTB United League, LKL (Lithuania), BSL (Israel), PLK (Poland), Korisliiga (Finland), SBL (Switzerland) and Basketligaen (Denmark). European Basketball Leagues is currently minority shareholder of both ECA and of Basketball Champions League SA.

EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES Manifesto: A Vision for the Future of European Basketball

1. Reinforcing the Central Role of National Leagues

- National leagues are the foundation of European basketball: they develop talent, engage local communities, and sustain the professional game in each country.
- No structural reform of European competitions can succeed without acknowledging and preserving the strength and relevance of national leagues.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES demands/insists on full participation of national leagues in any decision-making process that impacts the continental basketball landscape.

2. Defining a Unified and Balanced International Calendar

- A harmonized calendar is essential to minimize conflicts between domestic and international events and competitions and to provide stability for clubs, players, and fans.
- This calendar must be the product of collaboration between leagues, federations, and competition organizers - not unilateral decisions.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES calls for the creation of a clear, coordinated, and universally respected international calendar.

3. Rationalizing European Competitions

- Fewer, better-organized competitions will enhance visibility, improve overall quality, and make it easier for both clubs and fans to better engage with the sport.
- Consolidation is not a step backward - it is the only way to restore clarity and coherence to a disjointed system.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES advocates for a significant reduction and streamlining of European competitions. Today's fragmented landscape confuses fans, dilutes value, and overstretches clubs.

4. Restoring Competitive Balance and Systemic Clarity

- A transparent and logical hierarchy of competitions is essential to bring order to the current chaotic landscape, benefiting clubs, fans, and commercial partners alike.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES believes that European basketball must move towards a more inclusive and meritocratic model, where access to international competitions is based on sporting performance.

5. Putting Fans Back at the Heart of the Game

- A simplified, fan-friendly structure - with clear storytelling and accessible scheduling – is key to rebuilding loyalty and excitement across all levels of the sport.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES believes basketball fans must always come first. The current competition overload, unclear formats, and scheduling clashes alienate supporters and damage engagement.

6. Promoting Unity and Constructive Dialogue

- European basketball can only progress through open dialogue and mutual respect among all stakeholders - leagues, federations, clubs, and competition organizers.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES invites all actors, including FIBA and Euroleague, to commit to building a unified governance model that balances national and international interests.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES stands for cooperation, not confrontation.

7. Safeguarding Players' Health and the Integrity of the Game

- A sustainable calendar must be adopted - one that ensures adequate rest, limits excessive travel, and prioritizes preparation and recovery.
- Protecting players is not only a moral obligation – it is vital to maintaining the quality, integrity and appeal of European basketball.
- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES firmly supports a responsible approach to player welfare. The current overload of domestic and international games endangers player health, diminishes

performance quality, and compromises long-term careers.

8. Strengthening Domestic Economies and Grassroots Development

- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES supports fair financial models, comprehensive youth development, and local club empowerment as pillars of long-term success in European basketball.
- Strong domestic leagues are key to sustainable growth. They fuel local investment, inspire future generations, and keep the sport rooted in its communities and culture.

9. Enhancing EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES's Role as a Knowledge and Cooperation Platform

- EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES:
 - serves as a knowledge hub, collecting, analyzing, and sharing data and insights to help leagues grow in a sustainable and informed way.
 - provides a forum for pan-European dialogue, enabling leagues to openly exchange views, align on shared challenges, and shape the future of European basketball collectively.
 - facilitates the sharing of best practices in governance, commercial development, player welfare, fan engagement, and digital innovation, aiming to raise standards across all member leagues.
 - EUROPEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUES regularly organizes workshops, seminars, and expert panels to stimulate innovation and address common structural challenges facing European leagues.