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PRESS RELEASE

FIBA Visits the Basketball Development Center in Istanbul, TÜRKİYE

FIBA's General Secretary, Andreas Zagklis, visited the Basketball Development Center on Wednesday, January 17th.

Zagklis: "This place is the Silicon Walley of basketball."

FIBA's General Secretary, Andreas Zagklis, visited the Basketball Development Center and conducted observations.

President of Turkish Basketball Federation (TBF) Hidayet Türkoğlu provided detailed information to the FIBA Secretary General Zagklis about the Basketball Development Center that has been built on where Abdi İpekçi Sports Hall once used to stand.

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis, who stated that he was genuinely impressed by the progress of the Basketball Development Center project, heralded that basketball was on the verge of acquiring a true Silicon Valley of its own. He indicated that he has been in contact to discuss the project with TBF President Hidayet Türkoğlu. Zagklis said, "I have seen the models of the project in President Türkoğlu's office before. But only if you come here you understand the magnitude, the order of magnitude, of the facility. President Türkoğlu calls it a 'complex'. I think this is a city in reality. Looking at it; the courts, the main arena, the offices, the schools, the universities around... If you don't mind my analogy, this is the Silicon Valley of basketball. That's the vision of the board and the president of TBF, and I can only congratulate them. I would like to thank the Turkish government, Mr. President, and every single executive who added value to the project for this investment, in the name of basketball. I am absolutely fascinated that the FIBA Youth Competition will hopefully be the first one to be celebrated in this venue."

Zagklis: "The Basketball Development Center Will Affect the Future of Basketball Globally"

FIBA Secretary General Zagklis indicated that he believes that the amenities of the Basketball Development Center will have a global impact on the future of basketball. He noted that no other FIBA member federation has a facility of this scale, nor a project like this at their disposal.

Zagklis: "This Place Will Wonderfully Unite the Turkish Basketball Community"

Zagklis stated that he believes the smartest decision was to build three basketball courts next to each other, prioritizing academies, as it efficiently uses the facility area with young people in mind. He stated that thousands of young people will be brought to the heart of Turkish basketball's development. FIBA Secretary General concluded his speech by saying:

"If you wear the national team jersey of your county, this means you are one of the top 12 basketball players in your country. So, what do we do with basketball? We unite the people and we inspire them. And I think this fantastic facility will excellently unite the Turkish basketball community and will

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inspire the next generation. So, I can already see in the long run an additional number of people practicing our sport. I'm sure that this facility will host a lot of great administrators and coaches here to develop more and more players for a country that is already an elite of global basketball.”

Türkoğlu: “This Facility Will Be a Center for European Basketball and FIBA, Not Only For Türkiye”

TBF President Hidayet Türkoğlu indicated that he is very happy to host FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis in the Basketball Development Center. Saying Zagklis is both an important basketball personality and a good friend, Türkoğlu said: “I would like to note that this facility is not only for Türkiye but also for European basketball and FIBA. I would like you to see the Basketball Development Center as a home. I’m confident that TBF and FIBA will be collaborating on many things to develop basketball on a global scale.”

About the Basketball Development Center Project

The Basketball Development Center will possess a main court that will host 10.000 people and a training and game court for the National Team that will be able to host 1.000 people. On top of this, in the facility that will have 3 academy courts that will host over 8.000 games per year; there will be a special hotel, camping, and fitness center designed for the needs of athletes. The structure designed with an architectural style that is coherent with the historical texture of Istanbul and the city walls, will be connected to public transportation lines and will have an accumulation of 15.000 square meters of green area. The Basketball Development Center which will be positioned at the heart of the city will also have a basketball museum, basketball library, mall, food zone, and a concert hall.

The Basketball Development Center which is being built on 68.800 square meters will be a living place that hosts games, tournaments, and both national and international organizations.