

**“THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN ADDRESSING EMERGING CHALLENGES IN THE  
FIGHT AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT”**

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**14TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT**

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 29 NOVEMBER 2016**

## **Introduction**

Dear Secretary General,

Madame the Deputy Secretary General,

Dear Sports Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a pleasure to be invited to speak to you all here today on a pertinent topic amidst this ongoing debate surrounding the global Anti-Doping system: “The role of governments in addressing emerging challenges in the fight against doping in sport”.

I would like to begin by citing some words that many of you may have heard before: “Integrity is what you do when no one is watching; it’s doing the right thing all the time, even when it may work to your disadvantage”. These were the words of one Tony Dungy, a retired athlete. Integrity is really why we are all here. Preserving the integrity of sport must be our number one goal today. Integrity is a matter of beliefs, attitude, commitment and culture; of doing the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons. Integrity is what we need to teach our children.

And integrity, ladies and gentlemen, is vital to us in the Anti-Doping movement: we conduct our work in the pursuit of fairness in sport, in the pursuit of preserving the health of athletes, in the pursuit of protecting the rights of clean athletes, in protecting the future of our children and the dreams of aspiring athletes.

For where is the integrity when a clean athlete is standing on the start line of a 200 meter race beside an athlete that is using performance enhancing drugs? It is to protect these clean athletes that WADA, and the Anti-Doping movement, exists. It is central to all we do.

## **Governments**

I am here today to talk to you about how governments can partner with sport to address doping – some of which you will be familiar with.

Governments represent 50 percent of WADA, 50 percent that is essential to maintain a balance with the representation of the sport movement on our board; a 50 percent that is perfectly

justifiable considering the importance of the fight against doping in the broader social context of dealing with health issues. This 50 percent also allows people in a position of power to influence sport and global values through the conduct of its other responsibilities and activities.

The 50/50 government-sport model that has existed within WADA for the past 17 years should be seen as a beacon of successful governance, because governments can provide real clout to Anti-Doping in areas where sport cannot.

- Particularly with introducing legislation that prevents the trafficking and distribution of banned substances to athletes.
- Particularly with addressing the creeping trend of performance enhancing drug abuse in wider society – beyond the level of elite sport that the sport movement is involved in.

Only through partnerships with sport and government working together to defeat doping can real in-roads be made. And I will come onto partnerships in a little more detail later on.

Historically, before WADA's emergence, the Council of Europe was rather isolated at the forefront of the fight for clean sport. The responsibility and engagement of governments in the fight against doping is highlighted in the Council of Europe Convention, and the existence of CAHAMA.

It is also highlighted that through the Convention against doping in sports, in Autumn 2017, state parties will gather in Paris for the UNESCO Conference of Parties: to discuss the further implementation of the Convention, and so I take this opportunity to encourage governments and, more precisely, European Ministers of Sport, to propose specific measures to accelerate the implementation of the Convention and increase its impact on sport.

## **Anti-Doping Programs**

These solid foundations have allowed for the development of quality Anti-Doping programs. And it is here that the focus of WADA – as the regulator – now lies: on ensuring quality practice of Anti-Doping rules worldwide.

We have heard it said in recent months, mainly as the result of the Russian scheme uncovered by WADA, that the Anti-Doping system is broken. The Russian situation highlighted a number of areas of the fight against doping that need to be reinforced; but can assure you that the system is not broken!

- The vision and mission remain crucial.
- The foundation of the system is solid.
- WADA -- the regulatory body is sound.
- The 2015 Code is strong.

- WADA's newly introduced Anti-Doping Compliance and Monitoring Programs are strengthening Code practice – and will be strengthened further following the measures approved at the Foundation Board meeting we held 10 days ago in Glasgow.

Simply put, the fight against doping has successfully reached a first milestone, which was to establish a global regulatory Anti-Doping system -- lawfully implemented across all sports and all nations.

Now, with the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code legally adopted almost everywhere, it is time to reach the second milestone. We need to ensure that the regulatory framework in place is as effective as possible in preventing athletes from using performance enhancing drugs.

So to look at what tools we have at our disposal, and where quality needs to flourish:

- WADA has developed new scientific testing techniques, with intelligent testing being employed more, which allows us to focus on the priority areas.
- WADA has developed The Athlete Biological Passport, or ABP as it is known, used by an increasing number of sports and countries to detect anomalies in the biological parameters of an athlete over time.
- Investigative powers have been granted to WADA – and have been deployed successfully as we have seen through the Pound and McLaren investigations.
- WADA's Education programs have become globalized and are now available in numerous languages. This helps us look to the long-term; to ensure that we move towards a doping-free sporting culture.
- WADA has entered into Partnerships with law enforcement agencies.
- We have also struck partnerships with pharmaceutical organizations such as GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer and now Astellas and others.
- We now have an enhanced compliance monitoring program; a program to better monitor Anti-Doping, and ensure that rules, legislation and programs are implemented all around the world.

At the recent WADA Foundation Board Meeting in Glasgow, Athletes, Governments and the sport movement endorsed a graded sanctioning framework for non-compliance. Such a framework will bring greater clarity to the system, and, in doing so, provide clean athletes with greater trust that the system works for them. The Board also approved a whistleblower programme. All these measures will serve to make WADA fit for the future.

### **Route to success**

10 years ago the Fight against doping meant “blood and urine testing”, today we are talking about: investigations, whistleblower programs, Athlete Passports, compliance & sanctioning of

non-compliance. As you can see today, the entire scope of the fight against doping has dramatically changed from the last decade.

The Foundation Board in Glasgow was very encouraging for WADA. It was refreshing to see the remarkable level of government engagement in helping us map out the way forward for the Anti-Doping movement. And, alongside athletes and the sport movement, in helping ensure that a stronger, more independent and empowered WADA would be fit for the future.

If we remind ourselves of WADA's Foundation Board Meeting in Glasgow, the sport movement and governments endorsed the following:

- A graded sanctioning framework for non-compliance that was put forward by the independent Compliance Review Committee. Next steps will involve further consultation and, once enacted, this framework will equip WADA and the Anti-Doping system with the ability to levy meaningful, predictable and proportionate sanctions in cases of non-compliance by Anti-Doping organizations with the World Anti-Doping Code.
- WADA's Whistleblower Program, which takes effect in early 2017, will, for the first time, formalize the process for protecting and offering assurance of confidentiality to whistleblowers. The Program, which will encourage athletes, administrators and others, from across all sports and all countries, to raise concerns in good faith and on reasonable grounds of suspected doping, aims to provide greater assurance to, and incentivize, those individuals that come forward with valuable information. Under this Program, WADA will listen to whistleblowers' concerns; provide them with advice; keep them informed of the Agency's investigations; and support, protect, and reward them as appropriate along the way.
- Measures to ensure the independence of the Anti-Doping system from sports organizations and national governments. To do this, the Foundation Board approved the creation of a working group with stakeholder representation from the governments, the sport movement, National Anti-Doping Organizations, athletes and other experts. The working group will study strengthening WADA's governance structure and report back at the next Board meeting in May 2017.
- In order to maintain WADA's strengthened laboratory accreditation monitoring system, it was decided that a working group would be formed to review the lab accreditation process.
- The Board agreed to continue the process to evaluate establishing an Independent Testing Authority; a request made by the Olympic Summit. This group will report back on the proposal of creating such an Independent Testing Authority at the next Foundation Board meeting in May 2017.
- In light of the recent "hacking" [attacks by cyber espionage group 'Fancy Bears'](#), WADA confirmed the security measures that it had implemented to protect athletes' personal data and the broader Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS).

- WADA's capability for investigations and intelligence-gathering would be enhanced – and properly funded.

## **Conclusion**

As you can see, there is a plenty of work to be done.

This cannot be done in isolation. WADA cannot do this alone. WADA will need the support of all its partners. WADA will need the support of Europe.

Europe has supported WADA from the beginning. As the fight against doping in sport becomes more crucial than ever before, your role as public authorities and your ongoing commitment are key to protecting clean athletes.

We look forward to continuing this fight together.