



## **EU Conference on Anti-Doping**

Organised by the European Commission  
Athens, Greece, 13 – 15 May 2009

### **Conclusions of the Conference**

#### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE:**

- Expressed their appreciation of the Commission's determination to implement anti-doping actions foreseen in the White Paper on Sport;
- Appreciated the continuous and effective support of the European Parliament for the fight against doping;
- Noted with satisfaction recent progress made in the fight against doping, in particular thanks to the activities of WADA;
- Considered that doping is not only a problem for sport but it is a matter of public interest as it is becoming a societal problem in terms of health and education;
- Recognised the need of strong cooperation between all public authorities and sport organisations involved in the fight against doping;
- Expressed satisfaction with the good cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission on anti-doping issues;
- Called upon the European Parliament and the Commission to support anti-doping work at EU level from possible future EU budget lines for sport, if and when the Lisbon Treaty enters into force;
- Welcomed the opportunity to exchange views at the Conference in Athens and called upon the Commission to facilitate the exchange of information about doping-related issues also in the future;

#### **Data protection**

- Took note of the second opinion of the EU Article 29 Data Protection Working Party on the World Anti-Doping Agency's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy (ISPP), adopted on 6 April. Greeted the progress made by the Commission, the Council of Europe and WADA in reaching agreement on a solution to a number of important issues identified by the Article 29 Working Party;
- Welcomed the adoption by WADA's Executive Committee, on 9 May, of a revised International Standard and thanked WADA for taking this important step; welcomed this move towards more and better cooperation between the EU, the Council of Europe and WADA which would surely benefit the fight against doping;



- Reminded that the fight against doping is very important, in particular to protect the rights of clean athletes, but so are the fundamental rights of athletes; noted that since Europe is committed to testing athletes and given that Europe has laws that provide a high level of personal data protection, it was only natural that Europe must take the challenges posed by data protection in anti-doping work very seriously, with due regard to the principle of proportionality;
- Acknowledged that data protection issues in relation to relevant EU legislation and the recent discussions and developments in this area were becoming increasingly relevant to the work of anti-doping specialists. Considered that there was an outspoken need to build bridges between anti-doping specialists and data protection specialists, as indeed compliance with the Data Protection Directive is monitored by Member States' national data protection authorities;
- Called upon the EU, the Council of Europe and WADA to continue and intensify their dialogue and cooperation by following up on matters, identified by the Article 29 Working Party, other than the ones already solved by the recent revision and enhancement of the ISPP, including the way whereabouts rules are practised.
- Took note of the Presidency Conclusions from the meeting of EU Sport Directors in Prague, 28-29 April, including in particular the conclusion that "this progress should be continued on other issues regarding the Second Opinion of the Article 29 Working Party" which are to be pursued in "close consultation and cooperation between the relevant actors, including WADA, the Council of Europe, the Commission, as well as NADOs and Data Protection Agencies in EU Member States."
- Noted that EU Sport Directors "welcomed the intended creation of an informal Expert Group to work on the follow-up on the Second Opinion of the Article 29 Working Party" and stressed the importance of continuing on the same basis as recently with regard of the ISPP;

### **Criminalisation of trade in doping substances**

- Noted the general trend toward criminalisation of trade in doping substances across the EU and encouraged those Member States which have not yet passed such laws to do so;
- Invited Member States to reflect upon the possibility to criminalise the possession of doping substances for the purpose of trading;
- Noted the considerable variance between Member States in this regard and invited Member States, the Commission and the Council of Europe to continue their exchange of information and best practice in this regard;
- Encouraged the Commission to start reflecting on how this process could be fed into future Sport Council sessions after the possible entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon;

### **Transport of samples onboard commercial aircraft**

- Took note of a presentation by the UEFA representative and the reported problems experienced by UEFA;



- Noted that some Member States have introduced effective systems to allow Doping Control Officers to take samples through border control, customs and check-in as hand-luggage and called upon the introduction of such measures across the EU;
- Invited the Commission and the Council of Europe to continue their work on this issue to find ways in which the travels of doping control officers might be facilitated;

### **Cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry**

- Welcomed the French experience regarding cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry as a meaningful contribution to the fight against doping;
- Considered that a continuation of this type of cooperation outside of the borders of just one country would be useful;
- Identified the need to liaise with the pharmaceutical industry so as to make them aware of the importance of screening products with a doping potential based on WADA's list of pharmaceutical categories;
- Invited the various services of the European Commission (namely those in charge of sport, pharmaceutical industry, health and consumer protection) and the European Medicines Agency to establish cooperation with the stakeholders involved in this topic;

### **Cooperation between WADA-accredited laboratories**

- Reminded the European Commission of the leading role of European laboratories in the international fight against doping. Out of 34 WADA-accredited laboratories around the world, 15 laboratories (44%) are based in the EU and analyse around 40% of the world's doping samples;
- Concluded that there was a need for WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratories based in the EU to be able to exchange information within an EU framework from time to time, in particular regarding the exchange of knowledge, new technologies and new research results as well as the development and sharing of technologies and capacities, in addition to the existing framework of WAADS (World Association of Anti-Doping Scientists);
- Did not consider it necessary to set up any new structures to meet the need for exchange of information, bearing in mind the current parallel existence of multiple public and private anti-doping structures at national and international level;
- Underlined that this type of exchange should also allow accredited laboratories based in the EU to summarise their concerns and wishes regarding developments in anti-doping at European and world-wide level and carry these forward to the European Commission;
- Reminded the European Commission that certain initiatives launched by the EU in the past, including the CAFDIS (Concerted action in the fight against doping in sport) and HARDOP (Harmonization and standardization on the fight against doping in sport) projects, made a substantial contribution toward strengthening the competitiveness of accredited laboratories based in the EU as well as the related industries;
- Called upon the Commission to reserve appropriate funding as part of a possible future EU Sport Programme, in particular to support case-related studies and to look at possibilities to support research via EU research frame programmes.