



Speech by Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to begin by recalling the vision of sport upheld by the Council of Europe. Our vision is to preserve and promote social benefits of sport by defending the integrity of competition, the health and human rights of the competitors, the openness of sport to all ages and categories and the interest of spectators. It is this vision of sport which we are determined to promote – in the name of Europe – within the World Anti-Doping Agency. It represents the philosophy behind our action in all areas, and our active involvement from the very beginning in the preparation of the new World Anti-Doping Code.

I should like to make two points on the Code.

The first is related to the fight against trafficking. Trafficking of doping substances is a crime, and where it is not, it should be made

one. The exchange of information between public authorities and anti-doping organisations is essential for law enforcement agencies to do their job. This requires adequate regulation. The Council of Europe is working on models of legislation and possible new standards, and of course, we are ready to share our expertise with WADA.

The second point is about data protection which is closely linked to the protection of human rights. The introduction of a reference to personal data protection in the World Anti-Doping Code and the prospect of the development of a WADA standard on personal data protection in anti-doping is therefore a very significant step in the right direction. At the Council of Europe we firmly believe that compliance with human rights is an asset which will considerably reinforce the effectiveness of our anti-doping policies.

Let me conclude with a few remarks on cooperation with, and within WADA.

Since the agency's creation in 1999, the joint venture between the Olympic movement and public authorities has proved the right formula for a successful and effective fight against doping.

We believe it is important to support and promote WADA in its role as the policy leader. WADA is not, and should not be reduced to a mere

service provider. WADA's role as the policy leader will become increasingly important with the entry into force of the new WADA Code and for its successful implementation in the future.

Public authorities will continue their contribution to, and support for the World Anti-Doping Programme. They have managed to unanimously support WADA, the Code and most decisions related to the fight against doping. The preparation of a new convention in record time, followed by a strong commitment for its rapid ratification is a good example.

However, we are still facing many challenges related to internal co-operation and co-ordination within the Public Authorities. With the right political will, we can successfully tackle them. We owe it to the hundreds of thousands of honest, hard-working athletes and millions of supporters admiring their performance - and their integrity.

I thank you for attention.