

Dear President, distinguished delegates, dear friends in sport

If I look at the Code and see what it has changed for a lower risk Olympic Sport then I see that it has generated a lot more work, the budget on anti-doping work has grown by a factor of 10. So the question has to be asked is this worth it? My answer to that is yes but only if the future continues to go into the same direction and we don't end up with only legal battles since our sport is at the maximum of spending on anti-doping matters. FITA prefers to spend the money on sample taking and education rather than lawyers.

The other main issue we have is that as far as we can see the Olympic Movement has done its part of the job but not the governments. We have been confronted at several occasions where one of our national federations cannot implement the code because of national legislation. Now that the UNESCO convention is coming into place this should help but some of the countries will now wait until the new code is in place to do anything. This has to stop and we urge everyone who can do something about this, to act. Furthermore what tool will exist for the Olympic Movement or WADA to act against a country that has signed the convention but doesn't do anything to comply with the Code?

Enough has already been said on sanctions so I am not going further into this. One of the negatives of the current and former Codes is that he has not enabled to prevent that certain competitions cannot even state the winner one year after the event when the next one is taking place because of delays in the procedure. Where is the credibility of the sport? I do not see how the new version will make this quicker and that is something we should clearly try to achieve in a next version. The fact that WADA will be given a possibility to go to CAS when a procedure is taking too long is fine but what competence CAS will be given in these cases to really act. We also hope that CAS will quickly set enough jurisprudence that will prevent every athlete to go to CAS to get one or two months less and delay the whole procedure.

One aspect that needs to be looked into for the future is quality versus quantity. We cannot reduce the use of doping by trying to do everything. What is an athlete is a critical question in this regard? I see that there are some changes there and we will hope that this will remove some of the current conflicts between IFs and NADOs.

The last thing is the laboratories. Since the conception of WADA we have seen the number of laboratories grow which is good since there is more testing. However are all laboratories at the same level? Is the quality control really working? Knowing many of the issues in the last years IFs have faced with laboratories the answer to that is probably no. So what is going to be done about that and when will we see sanctions against laboratories that do not perform or report as they should?

FITA is and will be committed to the fight against doping. No sport can claim that they have no risk but we keep on fighting to remain a lower risk sport.