

International Relations

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World Anti Doping Agency

**Intervention to the World Anti Doping Conference, Madrid, 16. November 2007
by the President of the NOC and Sports Confederation of Denmark,
Mr. Niels Nygaard**

I would like to congratulate WADA and all of us for the progress that has taken place since the last World Anti Doping Conference in Copenhagen in 2003.

The Executive Committee and the staff of WADA have made a remarkable job and the revised Code that we now about to adapt is a very good tool for the future.

I would like to make some comments and some suggestions regarding the revised Code and the future work.

1. The fight against doping is not only an issue for high performance sport. WADA has devoted most of its attention and resources to fight doping in high performance sport - and this is quite natural.

But in a number of countries, including Denmark, the doping problem is much bigger in *recreational sport*, for instance in fitness centres. We have to approach this challenge in other ways than we approach high performance sport and we therefore fully support the proposed article 5 in the revised WADA Code which sets up rules in this respect.

2. The status of ineligibility during a suspension for doping has until now been a matter of some confusion. We therefore fully support the proposed article 10.10.1 which now makes it clear that a suspended athlete can not participate in *organised training activities in his club* during the suspension and we expect also professional team sports to follow this rule.

3. We fully support the introduction of the phrase "athletes and other persons" everywhere in the Code to emphasize the importance of the entourage of the athletes in anti-doping matters.

However, we would like to stress that we still lack efficient means of investigation of possible Code infringement when it comes to these "other persons".

We encourage WADA to study how investigation of doping offences committed by "other persons" can become more efficient in the future, for example by introducing mandatory witness statements etc.

4. It is evident that out of competition testing is crucial to combat doping. In this connection the setting up of the *whereabouts system* is of the utmost importance. In Denmark we have a bizarre case with the cyclist Michael Rasmussen. Because of the lack of harmonization between the warnings given by National Anti-Doping Agencies and International Sports Federations, this case has become a farce. With the new wording in the revised Code, we will not have this problem in the future.

5. Finally we would like to urge WADA and the pharmaceutical industry to work more together. We need a breakthrough in being quicker to detect new substances and new methods of doping. This could be achieved by a closer cooperation with - and more involvement from - the pharmaceutical companies. I believe that the good cause combined with stronger intervention from the Governments could secure a better development in this area.

Thank you.

Niels Nygaard, President
NOC and Sports Confederation of Denmark