

World Anti-Doping Conference – Norwegian Intervention

WC Session 7 & 8: Government of Norway

Thank you Chair

First of all, Norway would like to congratulate WADA on its achievements over the last years. The World Anti-Doping Code has become the paramount instrument in the international fight against doping in sport and the major contributor to harmonisation of anti-doping policies.

Norway commends WADA on an excellent piece of work, which has resulted in the revised World Anti-Doping Code. We are very pleased that the process leading to the revised code has been such an open and inclusive one. Openness and transparency is of vital importance if WADA is to stand a chance to fulfil its role as an effective anti-doping control body. Norway, therefore, hopes that this process will be an inspiration for all stakeholders.

Since governments are not signatories to the code, we have focussed our contributions in the consultations on some general issues, such as the role and responsibilities of WADA in relation to signatories and other stakeholders. We have also stressed the need for cost-effectiveness in the fight against doping in sport and that cost implications always must be focussed when considering new rules and procedures.

The revision of the World Anti-Doping Code has made a couple of issues clear to us.

- One is that governments must acknowledge the sports movement's ability and willingness to develop its own rules and regulations for the governance of sport, and also the need for strong rules.
- The second is that government involvement has to be conducted in accordance with national and international legislation and instruments.

Governments' commitments in the field of anti-doping are regulated by the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport.

This has been the most successful UNESCO Convention to date with regard to the speed of ratification – which shows how committed

governments are to the anti-doping task. But we need more countries on board. We therefore strongly urge all countries to ratify the UNESCO convention.

The WADA Code contains provisions concerning the involvement of governments. Some passages in the revised code dealing with monitoring of the UNESCO Convention suggest to me that the role of WADA vis-à-vis national governments is not clear enough. We therefore support UNESCO's proposal for an amendment of the revised code as agreed in the UNESCO meeting on Wednesday this week.

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that WADA cannot solve the doping problem alone. This responsibility rests with national and international sports federations, Olympic committees and athletes, as well as governments. Only when all stakeholders show greater willingness and efforts to combat doping in sport, can we succeed.

Thank you for your attention!