

**Gerry Sutcliffe - UK Minister for Sport**

**Public Authorities Intervention**

Thank you Chair. I know that these interventions are being carefully timed, so I will try to be brief.

Firstly, I want to put on record my thanks to our colleagues in Spain, who have done such an impressive job of hosting this important conference.

Secondly, I want to thank WADA for their sterling efforts in carrying out this review. It is absolutely right that we seek to build upon three years of practical implementation of the Code, and I believe that the revised version we have before us does so - and is a marked improvement. This is due, in no small part, to the open and transparent way in which WADA has conducted this process.

I would also like to thank UK Sport for their efforts in ensuring that sports organisations in the UK were given a voice in this review.

Coming quickly to the points I want to make today. While we would all agree that the Code is an invaluable tool in the fight against doping, it is only effective if it is being used and applied equally around the world.

I know, from speaking to our athletes, that they welcome the measures applied under the Code, because this means they are competing on a level playing field. However - and I'm sure many of you have had similar conversations with your athletes - problems begin when the Code is not applied with equal vigour around the world.

If we are to have confidence in the global reach of the Code we need a stronger monitoring mechanism. No-one is better placed to do this than WADA and it is important they do so over the lifetime of the new Code.

My predecessor and I have argued for performance enhancement

to be given greater weighting when looking at substances or methods being included on the Prohibited List. I was disappointed that this approach was not adopted, as I think it was a real opportunity to give the List greater credibility in the eyes of our athletes. That said, it remains important that the decisions taken on the inclusion, or otherwise, of substances or methods on the List is as transparent as it can possibly be.

I also want to take this opportunity to raise an important point about the WADA budget. WADA has to take a more strategic, long term approach to its finances. Governments across the world do not have limitless resources, and cannot continue to accept significant increases in the WADA budget without clear reasons why more money is needed, or indeed what the consequences of not meeting such a budget may be. We need to be better informed and I urge WADA to look at this issue carefully.

I am very pleased that the requirements for the provision of Athlete Whereabouts Information, laid out in the International Standard for Testing, are closely based on the system we already have in place in the UK. This is a system we know works and we shall endeavour to ensure that the lessons we have learnt over the past two years are passed on to our anti-doping counterparts in International Federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all to London in 2012 where we will put on a truly memorable Olympic and Paralympic Games. I want to see the 2012 Games remembered as an event typified by sportsmen and sportswomen reaching the pinnacle of sporting achievement. I do not want them remembered for the mire of a doping scandal - and I am sure that this new Code will be instrumental in ensuring this.

Thank you.