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## **Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)**

### **Compliance with Commitments Project**

## **Report of the Monitoring Group's Consultative Visit to Romania on the implementation of the Anti-Doping Convention**

Bucharest, 11 – 13 July 2005

At the request of the Romanian authorities, the Monitoring Group paid a visit to Romania to advise on the setting up of a new independent national anti-doping agency. The advisory team consisted of Professor R. Klaus Müller, Chair of the Monitoring Group (T-DO); Mr Anders Solheim, Chief Executive of Anti-Doping Norway; and Mr George Walker, Head of the Sport Department, Council of Europe. The visit was well organised and the team was able to meet all the main partners involved. The programme of the visit is annexed to this report. The team expresses its particular thanks to Dr Graziela Vâjială, Head of the Doping Laboratory and to Professor Ioan Dragan, Head of the Sports Medicine Institute for their roles in the preparation and management of the visit as well to Mr Alexandru Paraschivescu, Romanian delegate to the CDDS, for the practical organisation of the visit. The team also expresses its appreciation for the warm hospitality received, particularly from the President of the National Sports Agency, Mr Florian Gheorghe.

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The visit concentrated on the following articles of the Anti-Doping Convention:  
3: Domestic Coordination; 5: Laboratories; 7: Cooperation with sports organisations.

Since the national anti-doping programme is currently being reorganised, it is difficult to give concrete advice on what to change or on what is really functioning in today's programme. The Romanian authorities have presented us with a new model and our feedback is therefore based upon what they should take into consideration in the establishment phase. However, it is of course important for them to keep up with the well functioning parts of their present programme also in the future.

Some points of principle are:

- The establishment of the new National Anti-Doping Agency of Romania (NADAR) directly under the Prime Minister's Chancellery ensures the necessary separation between the anti-doping agency and the organisations responsible for elite sport, namely the

Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee, the sports federations and the National Sports Agency. Independence means political and financial independence from other governmental bodies and from individual sports or sports bodies. The agency will take over and develop the work previously done by the National Anti-Doping Commission.

- The independence given to NADAR is a very important step for Romania and must be encouraged by every means. The first reactions of the Romanian sports movement, in particular the Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee and a number of large sports federations, to the creation of NADAR are very positive and should be built upon.
- The political commitment as expressed by Mr. Frâncu (Head of the Prime Minister's Chancellery) implies also support from the National Sports Agency and the Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee and is of the utmost importance for the development of the domestic anti-doping programme.
- The new structure appears to be a good basis for running an efficient and effective national anti-doping programme.
- Appropriate funding over the years is necessary for developing and ensuring a quality anti-doping programme and to secure the credibility of doping-free elite sports, nationally and internationally.
- The National Sports Agency mentioned 1 million euros annually as a goal for government funding of the new agency. The mentioned sum seems appropriate today to ensure minimum activities for a comprehensive programme, and should be reached as soon as possible. During our visit, it was announced that the new agency would receive 209,000€ (752.5 new lei) as start-up money for the remainder of 2005. This represents a good beginning but proportionately will not be sufficient for a full year's operations. The future situation is not clear as the proportion of central governmental funding for 2005 is just over 60% (477.5 new lei), with the remainder being budgeted for by "own receipts" (ie, charging for doping control services). We recommend that the full basic cost of NADAR should be met through central governmental subsidy.

There are some further critical aspects which will need to be watched in order to guarantee future success:

- To ensure that the doping laboratory, while a part of the NADAR "organigramme", is independent in its daily operations from the NADAR and is able to develop its procedures independently and without interference. This means the practice of doping analysis and following all the other provisions of the international standard for laboratories.
- To ensure appropriate staffing (numbers and qualifications) for the NADAR. We were pleased to hear that after a competition procedure Dr Vâjilă had been nominated President of the new agency. Staffing levels should be set at a realistic and relevant level: the figure we heard of 36 proposed staff members seems too high.
- To clarify the NADAR's roles and responsibilities, especially related to:
  - Testing programme (numbers, sports, test distribution planning, controls).
  - Result management (fact-finding review, prosecution, hearings and appeals).

- Information and education (preventative work). In this context, there is still much work to be done in Romania in helping to change attitudes of athletes, coaches and sports leaders to doping questions.
- Commissioning and/or facilitating research related to anti-doping, both in the laboratory and elsewhere.
- International activities, bearing in mind the need for effective international cooperation and harmonisation in anti-doping questions.

With regard to the testing programme, the NADAR (partly on the basis of information provided by the individual sports federations and/or by ROC for pre-Olympic Games testing) should be given the responsibility for deciding:

- How many tests are allocated to the individual sports and sports disciplines.
- Whom to test.
- When to test.
- What substances/methods to analyse for.
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NADAR should in addition be in a position to:

- ensure that 2000/2500 tests are carried out on its own initiative and direction as an annual minimum. Tests should also be carried out at junior level;
- ensure that all out-of-competition tests are done on a no notice basis only;
- implement procedures for dealing with “no shows” and other failures to comply.

Furthermore:

- The sanction and appeal bodies must apply to all sports and though they will operate under the authority of the NADAR they should be organised independently (structures and persons) of the NADAR and independent of each other. The Romanian sports movement should have a clear role in nominating a sufficient number of members of these bodies so that their decisions are not undermined from the inside. (The “WADA model” of 50% sport and 50% public authorities is possibly one to follow.) The initial reaction of the ROSC and several sports federations in support of the sanctioning role of NADAR is promising for the future.
- There must be an appropriate number of trained and certified DCOs in different parts of the country.
- International exchanges of experience between DCOs should be encouraged under the aegis of NADAR.
- NADAR should be encouraged to look into blood testing and the laboratory to look into analytical methods.
- The laboratory is now well equipped and staffed will soon have additional space in the new building planned for NADAR. It should be encouraged by NADAR to seek WADA-accreditation (ISO 17025 certification is already achieved). It should be pointed out that already the laboratory has enough staff to analyse more than the 2500 samples which NADAR should collect.
- A quality assurance programme for the NADAR’s doping control activities in general must be developed with a view to seeking appropriate ISO-level certification by 2008 at the latest.

- A separate TUE committee should be established within NADAR with the power to make decisions on individual TUE applications.
- A system for obtaining and managing whereabouts information from individual athletes must be developed (links with ADAMS might be envisaged in this context).
- NADAR should consider whether the Doping Control Services (testing) should continue to be bought from a private company or whether they should be integrated into the work of NADAR.
- The NADAR and its stakeholders must not underestimate the workload related to running separate businesses in its own location (housekeeping, accounting, auditing, insurance, equipment, and the accompanying quality assurance work load etc).
- Contracted doping control services on behalf of National Federations should not exceed 1/3 of the annual testing programme.
- The National Sports Agency and the Government must ensure that all sports federations cooperate fully with the NADAR and back its authority and decisions.
- NADAR should encourage a culture and attitude where doping is not accepted and where positive doping cases are presented as a logical result of a well functioning testing programme and sporting cheats are thereby excluded from sport.
- Collaboration with all domestic sports organisations must be encouraged, while at the same time guaranteeing that the testing programme is independently conceived and managed (thus ensuring a better understanding of the NADAR's role and activities)
- Encourage the NADAR to facilitate and to develop testing of Romanian athletes abroad (out of competition testing) through rapid ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention.

## Appendix

**Timetable and programme****11 July 2005***Afternoon*

- Arrivals
- Meeting with Mr Aleodor-Marian Francu, Head of the Prime Minister's Chancellery.
- Meeting with the leadership of the National Anti-Doping Commission

**12 July 2005***Morning*

- Meeting with the leadership of the National Anti-Doping Commission, including DCO officers
- Visit to the Doping Control Laboratory

*Afternoon*

- Meeting with the representatives of the Romanian Track and Field, Gymnastics, Football, Weightlifting, Swimming, Rugby, Bodybuilding and Rowing Federations
- Meeting at the Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee with Mr Ioan Dobrescu, Secretary General; Dr Renee Atanasescu, ROSC President's advisor on doping issues; and Mrs Mihaela Mioc, Head of International Relations.

**13 July 2005***Morning*

- Meeting with Mr Florian Gheorghe, President of the National Sport Agency
- Press Conference