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Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)

Project on Compliance with Commitments

Follow up report

Advisory visit to Croatia on the Anti-Doping Convention
Zagreb, 9-10 April 2003

Given the process of integration of Croatia into European institutions and the international context of anti-doping initiatives, the Croatian authorities show a great interest in and realise the importance of adopting an anti-doping policy. For the implementation of the Convention, the Government wishes to take new steps by putting in place a national anti-doping structure, adopting new legislation and making financial resources available.

Since the Monitoring Group's last consultative visit to Croatia, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has been intensively working on legislation of the new Sport Law, which should find its way into Parliament procedure by the end of the year.

The new Sport Law provides basis for the founding of a Croatian National Anti-Doping Agency, definitions of doping and criminal regulations for violators.

The list of prohibited substances is provided to the Republic of Croatia by WADA and is regularly published by the Croatian Olympic Committee.

The new Sport Law refers to the WADA Code and the Copenhagen resolution. More comprehensive and consistent anti-doping legal act should be introduced. A coordinated initiative among several ministries (Sports, Health, Interior, Justice) will take place in order to combat doping agents trafficking and to help the preparation of a comprehensive anti-doping legislation.

Croatia has no doping control laboratory. The samples collected in Croatia are then sent to accredited laboratories abroad (Cologne, Vienna, Athens etc.). Given the number of samples collected each year in Croatia and the population of the country, it is not seen as necessary to found a laboratory in Croatia at this moment.

In the future, the Croatian National Anti-Doping Agency should define the criteria for approving the limited therapeutic use of banned and restricted substances and create an easy way for a national system to receive and store medical notifications.

Following the advice given by the Consultative Monitoring Group, Croatia is making an effort to put into practice the following seven steps:

- Test Planning and Distribution
- Selection and Notification of Athletes
- Preparing for and Conducting the Sample Collection Session
- Handling of samples
- Sample Analysis
- Results Management
- Disciplinary Procedures, Sanctions and Appeals.

Republic of Croatia closely cooperates on international level with Council of Europe, WADA and IOC in order to develop a good anti-doping system in Croatia.

Republic of Croatia is in process of ratifying the Protocol for sports cooperation with Slovenia and is making an effort to put into practice boilerplate priorities set during the last visit of the Monitoring Group which are:

1. putting in place rules and procedures for doping controls and for their subsequent disciplinary phases.
2. definition and list of substances.
3. putting in place a doping control programme and increasing the number of controls mainly out-of-competitions tests and all work related to the planning, realisation and monitoring of doping controls.
4. domestic co-ordination and creation of a national anti-doping body.
5. legislation.
6. education.
7. mutual recognition and ratification of the protocol.

The Republic of Croatia wishes to express its appreciation to the Council of Europe for its generously offered help in implementing an anti-doping policy and achieving a commonly shared ideal of clean and fair sport.