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Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)

17th meeting of the Monitoring Group

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Follow up report

*From Turkish Republic on the anti-doping activities in Turkey
on compliance with the Anti-Doping Convention (Consultative visit in 2001)*

A consultative visit to Ankara and Istanbul was organised at the request of the Turkish Doping Control Centre and the General Directorate of Youth and Sport, working under the state Ministry responsible for Youth and Sport in Turkey on 22-24 October 2001.. The focus of the visit was an assessment of the Turkish anti-doping policy and programme, the national anti doping structure, the doping control system and Turkish Doping Control Centre's procedures. Immediately after the consultative visit, a Multilateral Sprint Seminar on Doping was organized by both the Council of Europe and the Turkish Doping Control Centre on 25-27 October 2001 in Istanbul. Both the scientific and social activities of the seminar were very successful.

Every year the Turkish government allocates financial resources for anti-doping activities. In 2001 the Turkish Doping Control Centre moved to a new place at Hacettepe University in Ankara and the government spent an amount of 200 000 \$ on the preparation of the place and the move. During the move new instruments were so purchased and all the rooms were provided with new PC's connected to the Internet. In 2002, the annual payment for WADA and some necessary expenses for ISO 17025 were also allocated the sum of up to 200 000 \$.

After applying to the IOC for accreditation, the Turkish Doping Control Centre has fulfilled all the necessary pre-accreditation tests and finally passed the last IOC Accreditation test and was accredited by the IOC on 20 December 2001. However, appropriate ISO 17025-accreditation certificate is also necessary to have an IOC certificate. For this reason, the Turkish Doping Control Centre has applied to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for the ISO 17025 accreditation. After IOC accreditation, two assessments have been carried out by the members of the UKAS to gain ISO 17025 accreditation and the certificate was issued on 14 January 2003. Now the Turkish Doping Control Centre is the 29th IOC accredited doping laboratory in the world that can perform 10 000 analysis per year. In the

near future it is planned to give support to all the neighbouring countries and International Sport Federations for doping analysis.

In 2003, the government planned to buy some new analytical instruments for doping analysis purposes such as: isotope ratio mass spectrometer and EPO System together with the new GC-MS instruments that will cost about up to 500 000 \$. Expenses for ISO surveillance assessments and annual WADA payments amount to 175 000 \$. That means the Turkish government plans to spent approximately 700 000 \$ that includes the attendance at all doping meetings in the world.

In 2001, 256 competition and 231 out of competition doping control tests and in 2002, 206 competition and 184 out of competition doping control tests have been carried out on the national athletes before IOC accreditation according to the legislation which exists in Turkey. These numbers exclude the doping samples taken from racing horses and football players. There exists a second doping control centre for horse racing in Ankara working under Ministry of Agriculture that is financed by the Turkish Jockey Club. All sport federations except football have been working under the Youth and Sport General Directorate. The Football Federation is the first and only federation that is independent now. They have a separate doping control commission, the samples have been taken by them and sent to Germany for the analysis, until now because FIFA needed an IOC accredited laboratories for doping control analysis. After gaining the IOC accreditation and gaining the certificates, the samples from football players will be analysed by the Turkish Doping Control Centre.

In Hacettepe University in Ankara, there are many departments that deal with sports such as the nutrition, sports medicine and departments in the Faculty of Sport Sciences. Members of these departments together with the members of Turkish Doping Control Centre give a lot of seminars in senior, youth and junior national teams for sport doctors and coaches, and also special seminars for athletes. Newspapers, magazines, TV and the radio have also been used for educational activities.

The legal basis for the anti-doping work in Turkey is the Law No 3289 dated 21 May 1986 named "Duties and Organizations of Youth and Sport General Directorate". The article 2/g of this law defines the task of the General Directorate of Youth and Sport. The Turkish government should take all necessary actions to protect the health of athletes by this law. According to this law, a special legislation has been issued named "Fight Against Doping" at the date 26.08.1993 No: 21680. Ten years after this legislation a new anti-doping legislation had been prepared according to the criteria of the international anti-doping agencies that allow for the setting up of a Turkish Anti-doping Agency in Turkey. This new legislation passed through all the official procedures waiting to be published in the official gazette. By this new legislation, a national anti-doping agency, an anti-doping educational and independent sampler officer's bureau will be set up.

Turkey ratified the Anti-Doping Convention in 1993 by the Law No 3885 that provides a further legal basis for the implementation of the anti-doping activities in Turkey. Separate provisions of the law on narcotics and psychotropic substances also exist in Turkey. However their use is under strike conditions. A red prescription is necessary to buy these drugs.

Recently, a law from the Ministry of Agriculture for the nutritional substances, energy drinks and similar products has been issued. According to this legislation, doping analysis should be performed for these substances before they are sold in Turkey.

Independent Sampler Officers have been trained for taking doping control samples and awarded a national certificate. It is planned to give these officers an international certificate soon. Approximately 200 independent sampler officers, most of whom are medical doctors are spread all over the country. Besides taking samples these highly educated officers give information on doping by lectures, courses and similar activities in regional meetings. The list of prohibited classes of substances and prohibited methods is translated immediately into Turkish and published as a booklet every year. These booklets have been distributed all over the country and put onto the web site of Turkish Doping Control Center (www.tdkm.hacettepe.edu.tr).

The Youth and Sport General Directorate has established a “Higher Medical Commission” that consists of independent experts from the Universities in Ankara who advise the Directorate on the subjects related to health and mostly on doping. This Commission organizes meetings for the medical commissions of sport federations at least twice a year to discuss the problems that exist in the federations and give information about the recent developments in all fields related to health.

A Commission of “Health and Doping exists in the Turkish National Olympic Committee, which works mainly on doping. They prepare seminars, meetings and other activities related to health and doping. The Commission prepared a report on the nutritional substances and planned to hold a panel this year, together with the international experts in the Turkish National Olympic Committee’s building to clarify the effects and dangers of using some nutritional substances. It is well known that doping substances exist in these products and athletes can be found guilty of doping through their use, although they are in fact innocent and unaware.