

**Statement by the Head of the Evaluation Team
of the Council of Europe Convention against Doping in Sport,
Michael Petrou and the Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation,
Oleg Matytsin**

The visit of the Evaluation Team of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention started on 21 September 2021 at the invitation of the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation to assess the current situation and future plans for the fight against doping in sport in Russia.

The Evaluation Team was composed of representatives of public authorities, national anti-doping organisations and anti-doping laboratories from Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Norway and Poland.

During the three-day visit, the Evaluation Team met with the Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation, **Oleg Matytsin**, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Federal Medical and Biological Agency, RUSADA, its Founders and Supervisory Board, the National Sport Arbitration Centre, the Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Russian Olympic University, All-Russian Sport Federations, anti-doping coordinators from the All-Russian Athletics Federation and the Biathlon Union of Russia and athletes. In addition, the Council of Europe's Team visited the Moscow Anti-Doping Laboratory.

Having in mind the importance of international cooperation in the interests of clean sport, the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation invited in April 2021 representatives of the Council of Europe to visit the country to see for themselves the evolutions that have taken place in Russia in recent years in the field of anti-doping. The delegation's visit is particularly symbolic in the year of the 25th anniversary of the Russian Federation's accession to the Council of Europe.

"The purpose of any evaluation visit is to improve the fight against doping in sport. The findings of the visit will serve as a basis for recommendations to the Russian authorities on specific areas to make anti-doping more effective. The Team had an open and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders and noted the strong commitment of the Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation, Oleg Matytsin, to put in place a robust system to fight doping in sport at all levels in the country." said **Michael Petrou, Head of the Evaluation Team**.

The Russian Federation, as a State Party to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, attaches great importance to the implementation of its provisions.

The Evaluation Team will present the report to the Monitoring Group for adoption scheduled at its next meeting (13-14 December 2021). The report will contain the findings and recommendations to the Russian Federation.

"The Russian Federation will continue to improve the anti-doping system having in mind the implementation of the CAS Award by 17 December 2022, so Russian athletes could participate on an equal basis in all sport competitions. The Ministry will continue to assist in every possible way the RUSADA in its reinstatement process", said **Oleg Matytsin, Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation**.

Moscow, 23 September 2021