

For a clean, fair and healthy sport The Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention



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Why an Anti-Doping Convention?

■ Sport can be a social, educational, cultural and economic asset and is instrumental in protecting health. Sport plays a distinctive role as one of the most popular activities in society today.

■ Doping in sport is not new, but it has grown, expanded geographically and become more visible in recent years. It is a severe scourge for many competitive sports and jeopardises the health of millions of athletes throughout the world. Doping is also cheating. It is contrary to a values-based sport and the principles for which it stands, such as fair play, equal chances and loyal competition. Doping damages the image of a clean and healthy sport amongst all age groups.

■ Since the 1960s, European States decided to reinforce their cooperation to fight it. A series of resolutions and recommendations led to the drafting of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention. The Convention is the expression of the political will to combat doping in an active and co-ordinated manner. Opened for signature on 16 November 1989, the Convention entered into force very rapidly on 1 March 1990.

The refusal of the first five riders in the 1966 world road-race cycling championship to submit to a doping control and the tragic death of a professional cyclist in the 1967 Tour de France resulted in considerable public concern on the abuse of doping substances in sport. In response, in 1967 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution (67)12 on the doping of athletes, which was the first international text on doping in sport.

What does the Convention aim to do?

■ The main objective of the Convention is to promote the harmonisation, at national and international levels, of the measures to be taken against doping. The Convention does not claim to create a uniform model of anti-doping. It sets common standards and regulations requiring that the countries adopt legislative, financial, technical and educational measures.

■ Its spirit derives from the political desire to safeguard the ethics of sport and to preserve the integrity of sport.



What are the countries committing to?

By joining the Convention, the States Parties undertake to put in place a national anti-doping policy to:

- ▶ create a national co-ordinating body;
- ▶ reduce the trafficking of doping substances and the use of prohibited doping agents;
- ▶ reinforce doping controls and improve detection techniques;
- ▶ support education and awareness-raising programmes;
- ▶ guarantee the efficiency of sanctions taken against offenders;
- ▶ collaborate with sports organisations at all levels including at international level;
- ▶ use accredited anti-doping laboratories;
- ▶ share experience and good practices.

They also commit to cooperate with other countries in the implementation of the Convention.

The Anti-Doping Convention has been ratified by more than 50 countries including European States as well as African (Morocco and Tunisia), American (Canada), and Oceanian (Australia) States.

How are these commitments met?

The body in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention is the Monitoring Group. This is a unique network of governmental experts and officials from anti-doping organisations who lead the monitoring work of anti-doping policies and practices among the States Parties. As a kind of international anti-doping barometer, the Monitoring Group sets standards and produces specific recommendations.

The overall mission of the Monitoring Group is to ensure that the Convention is implemented. Evaluation visits assist countries to put in place policies and programmes which help to improve the fight against doping. The Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention provides for a binding monitoring system, thus making it one of the few international conventions with a stringent control system.

Furthermore, States Parties complete annually a questionnaire on the state of their national anti-doping policies and practices.

The Monitoring Group is supported by four Advisory Groups focusing on



specific matters: Compliance, Education, Legal issues and Science. They deal with a variety of topics such as the annual update of the list of banned pharmacological classes of doping agents and doping methods, the fair trial principles in anti-doping, the protection of whistleblowers, or education to clean sport.

■ The Monitoring Group has a wide range of Observers, from non-European States, such as Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America, to the European Union, UNESCO and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as well as sport organisations including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Testing Agency (ITA) and various international sport federations.

What is the impact of the Convention at international level?

■ In 2003, the Monitoring Group was complemented by the Ad Hoc Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) a political body aiming at harmonising policies of European governments in line with WADA. CAHAMA is the only regional instrument of its kind; it prepares the international agenda of anti-doping at European level as well as contributes in substance to the elaboration of international standards. CAHAMA also formulates the mandate for the six European representatives within the statutory organs of WADA, the Executive Committee and the Foundation Board of WADA.

■ The Monitoring Group and CAHAMA co-operate on issues of common interest including the reinforcement of human rights and rule of law principles in the fight against doping.

■ The Monitoring Group co-operates with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), and the Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS), with the view to make sport more ethical, more inclusive and safer. It also contributes to the Council of Europe biennial Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport.

■ The Council of Europe actively cooperates with WADA to strengthen anti-doping programmes at national level, promote education and develop common rules and approaches in anti-doping. The World Anti-Doping Code, which ensures the harmonisation of anti-doping rules and policies within anti-doping authorities and sports organisations, is regularly reviewed by WADA and the Council of Europe contributed to its drafting and its implementation at European level.



The Council of Europe

■ The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949 which today comprises 46 member states.

■ The primary aim of the Council of Europe is to create a common democratic and legal area, ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ On the basis of these fundamental values, the Council of Europe develops common responses to the political, social, cultural and legal challenges in its member states.

■ Through EPAS, the Council of Europe provides a platform for intergovernmental sports co-operation between the public authorities of its member states. It also encourages dialogue between public authorities, sports federations, sport organisations and the civil society.

■ The Council of Europe acts firmly against some of the negative aspects of sport through its three international conventions: the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135), the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215), and the Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218).

■ The Council of Europe has its headquarters in Strasbourg (France).

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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