

MONITORING GROUP

ANTI-DOPING CONVENTION



Strasbourg, 2 September 2025

T-DO(2025)29

Limiting the Availability of Doping Substances in Europe: A Shared Responsibility

International Conference

Concept Note

For discussion

61st meeting of the Monitoring Group

Introduction

Over the past 35 years, Europe's anti-doping landscape has evolved significantly, beginning with the adoption of the Council of Europe's [Anti-Doping Convention](#) in 1989. This milestone launched coordinated efforts to strengthen the fight against doping in sport and led to the establishment of [national anti-doping organisations](#). In parallel, regulatory and law enforcement authorities took on new responsibilities to curb the supply of prohibited substances at national level. [Medicines regulatory authorities](#), together with the pharmaceutical industry, have also played a critical role in regulating markets for potentially performance-enhancing drugs.

The creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency ([WADA](#)) in 1999 further advanced this agenda by harmonising rules, promoting clean sport, and fostering cooperation between the sporting community and public authorities. Despite these achievements, doping substances remain available across Europe. The proliferation of small-scale, often illicit production — particularly of anabolic steroids in “kitchen laboratories” — has created serious risks to the health of both elite and recreational athletes.

While progress has been made, new approaches are urgently needed to reduce availability at its source, complementing existing testing and sanctioning measures.

Background

The Anti-Doping Convention requires States Parties to adopt legislative, regulatory, or administrative measures to limit the supply of banned substances, especially anabolic steroids. The accompanying Explanatory Report highlights the need to dismantle organised trafficking networks.

To support implementation, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation [Rec\(2000\)16](#) on common legal principles for combating doping-agent trafficking. Complementary provisions are also found in the Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes involving Threats to Public Health ([MEDICRIME Convention](#), CETS No. 211).

However, national approaches vary widely. Some States rely on criminal law, others on administrative or disciplinary measures. The level of cooperation between law enforcement, regulatory authorities, and anti-doping organisations also differs significantly.

T-DO Initiatives

The Council of Europe's instruments — the Conventions and Recommendations — combined with the coordination platform offered by the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), should be used effectively to advance anti-doping efforts and address the root causes of doping, rather than just its consequences.

The T-DO is currently developing a recommendation for States Parties regarding criminal and administrative law measures to restrict the availability of doping substances and methods. Broad consultations and discussions are essential to produce an effective tool that will support States Parties in improving their national practices, as well as ensuring the basis for international coordination and cooperation.

Bringing together all stakeholders involved in restricting the availability of doping substances and methods would contribute to harmonising the framework in Europe. Therefore, the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO) is inviting Observers and other partners in clean sport to an [international conference](#) to review the current situation, discuss potential ways forward, assign tasks, and agree on how to monitor their implementation.

Objectives of the International Conference

The conference aims to:

- Raise awareness of the continued availability of doping substances and the risks posed by illicit production.
 - Clarify the role of each actor and strengthen their engagement in the fight against doping substances.
 - Enhance cooperation between public authorities, WADA, the sports movement, and the pharmaceutical industry.
 - Showcase effective law enforcement practices and cross-border collaboration.
 - Contribute to the drafting and future implementation of the T-DO Recommendation on criminal and administrative measures.
 - Promote synergies between T-DO and MEDICRIME networks, and deepen cooperation with the pharmaceutical sector.
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Outline of the Conference

Duration: One day

Format:

- Opening session – High-level statements by the Council of Europe, European Commission, sport movement leaders, and pharmaceutical industry representatives.
 - Panel 1: The role of public authorities and the pharmaceutical industry in limiting the supply of doping substances.
 - Panel 2: Safeguarding health in recreational sport: reducing demand and exposure to doping substances.
 - Closing session: High-level conclusions from WADA, T-DO/CAHAMA, MEDICRIME, Interpol, and States parties representatives.
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Target Audience

- Anti-doping experts
 - MEDICRIME network members
 - Law enforcement authorities
 - Public authorities (sport policy, public health, medicines regulation)
 - Sports organisations (IOC, international federations, private sector such as gyms and fitness centres)
 - Pharmaceutical industry representatives
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Date & Venue

Paris, France – venue to be confirmed

May / early June 2026