

## **Statement by the Chair of the Monitoring Group of the Council of Europe Anti-doping Convention regarding the “Enhanced Games”**

The “Enhanced Games” initiative, which claims to promote athletic competition without anti-doping regulations, fundamentally contradicts the principles enshrined in the Council of Europe’s standards and commitment to human dignity, fair play and sport integrity. By endorsing performance enhancement through potentially unsafe and unequal means, the “Enhanced Games” undermine the very ideals of health protection, equal opportunity, and the spirit of sport that the Council of Europe seeks to uphold through instruments such as the Anti-Doping Convention. This approach not only needlessly endangers athletes but also erodes public trust in the authenticity and fairness of sporting achievements.

The Chair of the Monitoring Group, Michał Rynkowski, highlights that "Protecting the health of athletes and fair competitions are core aims that lie at the heart of the Anti-Doping Convention and these cannot be undermined. Initiatives such as the “Enhanced Games” are unacceptable and have nothing to do with sports competitions organised in accordance with the fundamental principle of fair play. Failure to respect and uphold the rules of clean sport puts the health and lives of athletes participating in such an event at risk."

### **What are the “Enhanced Games”?**

The “Enhanced Games” are a proposed international sporting event that distinguishes itself from clean sport competition by rejecting traditional anti-doping regulations and practices. The “Enhanced Games” advocate for allowing athletes to use scientific and medical enhancements as performance enhancing drugs.

### **What is the Monitoring Group?**

The Monitoring group monitors the application of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe. The tasks of the Monitoring group are defined in the Article 11 of the Convention:

- keep the provisions of the Convention under review and examine any necessary modifications;
- approve the list of pharmacological classes of doping agents and doping methods, and the criteria for accreditation of laboratories;
- hold consultations with relevant sports organisations;
- make recommendations to the Parties concerning measures to be taken for the purposes of the Convention;
- recommend appropriate measures to keep relevant international organisations and the public informed about the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention;
- make recommendations to the Committee of Ministers concerning non-member States of the Council of Europe to be invited to accede to the Convention;
- make any proposal for improving the effectiveness of the Convention.