

## **WADA's 2019 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**13-14 March 2019, SwissTech Convention Centre, Lausanne, Switzerland**

**Keynote Address by WADA President, Sir Craig Reedie**

Title: "Unity Will Be Our Strength"

Honourable ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to WADA's 15th Annual Symposium in Lausanne. Thank you all so much for coming. It is fantastic to see such a big turnout once again this year as we bring together dedicated and talented people from all over the world, people who are committed to leading the fight against doping in sport.

The period since we last met in this same room 12 months ago has been particularly turbulent, a time that has been dominated yet again by the Russian doping scandal. This time one year ago, we were stuck in a deadlock with the Russian authorities as the Russian Anti-Doping Agency remained non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code. We could not proceed until Russian authorities did two things: firstly, accept the McLaren Investigation Report, in particular the involvement of state officials in the country's institutionalised doping scheme; and secondly, allow WADA to retrieve the vast amount of analytical data from the former Moscow Laboratory.

This impasse, as you know, was a situation that suited Russia much better than it suited WADA, athletes of the world and the rest of the global anti-doping community. Under the rules at that time, the non-compliance of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency – RUSADA – meant very little in real terms except that there was an inferior anti-doping program in operation in Russia compared to other countries. Russian athletes continued to compete internationally in nearly all sports as WADA has no authority on participation. Indeed, Russia was allowed to compete in international sporting events even after WADA uncovered the extent of Russia's doping program through two major investigations as a result of the rules in place at the time.

With this in mind, in June 2018, the independent Compliance Review Committee – CRC – resolved to break this impasse. The objective was to restore compliance to RUSADA while also achieving the remaining two conditions of the agreed Roadmap. To that end, the CRC made a unanimous recommendation that WADA should restore RUSADA's compliance if the Russian authorities accepted the outstanding conditions. On that basis, I wrote to the Russian Sports Minister on 22 June outlining these terms. This letter was also circulated to all members of WADA's Executive Committee at that time so the notion that this was somehow a "backroom deal", as I have heard it described, is completely untrue. No one questioned or objected to the process at that stage. In fact, no one commented at all.

The Russian Minister of Sport replied on 13 September accepting the terms. The CRC met on 13 September and recommended reinstatement subject to certain strict conditions. This recommendation was accepted by the Executive Committee, which as you know is composed in equal parts of members of the Sports Movement and Governments of the world, on 20 September, with a vote of nine in favour, two against and one abstention.

Just like it was the correct decision to declare RUSADA non-compliant in November 2015, the decision WADA's Executive Committee took on 20 September was in my view also the right one for clean sport. By that stage, by accepting the Schmid Report commissioned by the International Olympic Committee, Russia had accepted that officials within the Ministry of Sport had knowingly assisted with the systemic doping of Russian athletes and, under the terms of the reinstatement, Russia agreed to grant WADA, before the end of 2018, access to the data from the former Moscow Laboratory, which was sealed by Russian law enforcement authorities due to an ongoing federal investigation.

It was not an easy decision for the Executive Committee – I fully understand the reasons against it – but in light of the events that have occurred since it was made, it has proven to be the right one. On 10 January, albeit 10 days after they missed the deadline, the Russian authorities in Moscow opened up the laboratory to a team of experts from WADA enabling them to forensically extract the all-important data, despite the fact the lab had been sealed off for a federal investigation.

The fact Russia missed the deadline of 31 December last year was a matter of real concern for us. On 1 January 2019, as directed by the new rules under the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, we sent RUSADA a notice of non-conformity in order to put them on notice and give them the opportunity to respond in time for the Compliance Review Committee meeting on 14 and 15 January, a date which had been agreed and clearly communicated back in November.

As it happened, the non-conformity was addressed, and we accessed the data before that meeting concluded so, as per the new rules laid out by the International Standard, no sanction for missing the deadline was appropriate or even possible. This was consistent with how we treated every other Signatory. To do anything differently would not have been in accordance with the Standard and, crucially, would not have stood up to legal scrutiny at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

After the Executive Committee meeting of 22 January, when the members agreed without dissent to continue applying the decision of 20 September of last year, we immediately communicated with our stakeholders, including athletes, International Federations and National Anti-Doping Organizations to update everybody and answer any questions.

It is undisputable that accessing the laboratory data was a major step forward in this saga. Now we need to make sure this data is both complete and authentic. We are dealing here with more than 24 terabytes of information – that is equivalent to more than 400,000 hours of music or the space available on about 5,200 DVDs. Therefore, it has been quite a job just to upload the data to WADA's IT system, sort it, forensically index it and pair it to the various instruments, servers, hard drives, computers and other electronic equipment from the laboratory. That part of the process is complete and WADA's experts are now assessing it in detail to establish its authenticity. As previously indicated, the entire process is estimated to take two-three months to complete.

Again, this is a huge undertaking, involving more than 1.5 million documents but we continue to make good progress. Essentially what our experts have done, in collaboration with external forensic specialists, is to re-create the Moscow Laboratory in a virtual sense, allowing us to pair the various data with their respective instruments so that we can ensure what we have is complete, accurate and has not been tampered with.

The data, if authentic and complete, will be a game changer. It will be absolutely crucial to build strong cases against cheats and exonerate other athletes suspected of having participated in widespread doping on the basis of previous WADA-commissioned investigations led by Richard Pound and Prof. Richard McLaren. In addition, under the terms of the 20 September Executive Committee decision, the Russian authorities must make available any samples stored in the Moscow lab required by WADA for re-analysis by 30 June 2019. In some cases where athletes are suspected of doping, the available evidence has not been conclusive up to now so to be able to bolster what we already have with further proof direct from the Moscow Laboratory will be very important.

So, as you can see, we are resolutely moving forward. Leaving the situation in limbo served nobody, and certainly not athletes from other countries nor athletes within Russia. Nobody.

And in case anyone had any doubts about the usefulness of the data from the Moscow Laboratory, some recent decisions from the Court of Arbitration for Sport put that into sharp focus. Last month, CAS upheld 12 disciplinary cases brought by the International Association of Athletics Federations – the IAAF – against Russian athletes, using mainly evidence stemming from the McLaren investigation that exposed the institutionalized doping scheme in Russia.

These decisions came as welcome news for athletes, anti-doping organizations, WADA and all others around the world who care about clean sport. I hope they served to reassure them that a lot of work is being conducted behind the scenes by various organizations that are committed to ensure that justice is rendered. It reinforces the importance of ensuring that due process is followed and that evidence is carefully presented.

The precedent set by these decisions also highlighted once again just how important the successful retrieval of the analytical data from Moscow is for the fight against doping in sport. If this large amount of evidence is found to be authentic as we hope it will be, it will be used to bring forward more cases against those who cheated like the ones successfully brought to CAS by the IAAF last month, as the IAAF itself made clear in its press release following the court decisions.

At this point I feel it is important to highlight the remarkable work of WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department, which is proving to be a major strength of our organization. Under the leadership of Gunter Younger, this growing team of dedicated, talented and hard-working individuals have been responsible for the delivery of a number of complicated and ultimately successful operations, even outside the excellent work they have done on the Russia file. Another example of their good work was seen with the raids and arrests that police carried out a couple of weeks ago in Austria and Germany.

The raids were part of a wider police operation targeting criminals from a number of European countries, and our investigators have been providing extensive information and other assistance to the authorities in the course of their operation. It is vitally important that we maintain this close relationship with law enforcement around the world given police forces have at their disposal significant powers that we will never have.

This latest cooperation with Austrian law enforcement follows a WADA investigation into activities of the International Biathlon Union, which last year resulted in the initiation of a criminal investigation by police in Austria and Norway.

In addition to operations such as this, the support, encouragement and, at times, pressure our Intelligence and Investigations Department provides to anti-doping organizations in various sports and parts of the world continues to yield results for the good of clean sport around the world. Director General Olivier Niggli will shortly go into more detail on various cases in which WADA is involved.

But there are other reasons to feel optimistic and emboldened. The Russia experience has brought reforms within WADA including more independence, capacity for investigations and higher standards of compliance for Code Signatories. Significant changes have also taken place within RUSADA itself. It is now fully operational, significantly strengthened and has much more independence.

These are tangible and valuable improvements.

Perhaps the most important advancement since we last met at this symposium 12 months ago has been to the area of compliance. On 1 April last year, the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories came into effect. Along with the Compliance Monitoring

Program introduced in early 2017, in recent times this area of WADA's work has contributed to enhance global commitment to anti-doping and the global quality of anti-doping programs worldwide.

Using the Standard as the guiding light, the WADA Compliance Taskforce and the independent Compliance Review Committee, led by Jonathan Taylor, have worked efficiently and effectively, and in the process WADA's role has evolved into a genuine partnership with Code Signatories that delivers Code compliance in a collaborative and positive way. Olivier Niggli will provide greater detail regarding compliance that will quantify its impact.

Another major piece of work that has been ongoing recently has been reform of WADA's governance model, something that WADA's Director General, Olivier Niggli, will go into more detail later. Any strong organization will ensure that it has the proper structures and processes in place; and that, they evolve with the times. This is why two years ago we began a full review of WADA's governance to ensure WADA is fit for the future. And this is why, in November last year, our Foundation Board approved a raft of wide-ranging reforms that included scope for greater independence and athlete representation that are currently being implemented. While we have already come a long way in this regard, these reforms are just the beginning and we can expect the role and voice of athletes, in particular, to be strengthened in the future.

Speaking of athletes, it is great to see so many here this week and I know they have a packed agenda for their breakout session to be held today and tomorrow, under the leadership of the WADA Athlete Committee. Included in that, apart from the representation issue I just mentioned, will be in particular a session on the next generation of the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS), a presentation on how envisaged revisions of the 2021 Code will affect athletes, and discussions around the Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights, which the Athlete Committee first initiated during this very event two years ago.

Beyond Russia and related debates about governance, our work at WADA continues and we believe we are stronger now than in years past.

Since its formation in 1999, WADA has been constantly challenged by the efforts of individuals, teams or even entire nations looking to dope their way to success. These numerous revelations forced people to understand the scale of the challenge that faced us. Confirmation of that level of cheating left the world in no doubt of the importance of WADA's job and has re-awakened the public to the value of sports integrity.

Clearly, we all face pressure to deal with it effectively. Athletes need to know they are being protected and they expect us all to step up the fight. This, without a doubt, puts pressure on WADA to do more and it also puts pressure on governments and the sports movement to resource WADA properly so we can deliver together on all the enhanced services that are being demanded. To that end, for 2018, WADA received a budget increase of 8%; and then, in 2018, the Foundation Board approved 8% per year for each of the next four years, which was a very important decision for the future of clean sport.

With more finances in hand, WADA has been able to expand its activities in crucial areas such as: education; scientific and social scientific research; the athlete biological passport program; laboratory monitoring; more intelligence gathering and investigations; and much, much more.

WADA is made up of more than 120 talented and dedicated people. There are scientists, physicians, legal experts, educators, former athletes and many others. They are all going above and beyond to play their part, every day, in protecting clean sport and in looking at new ways and means to further enhance the efficiency of the fight against doping in sport.

Everyone in this room cares deeply about preventing, detecting and deterring doping, about demonstrably instilling a culture of clean sport and about protecting athletes. I would like to thank you all for being part of this global effort. We appreciate your dedicated efforts and for making your views known even if we do not always agree. As the global regulator, it is not possible to please everyone all of the time but I promise that WADA will continue to work with all our stakeholders in the interest of advancing clean sport.

As an example, we will continue to work very closely with the various anti-doping organizations so that cases stemming from the former Moscow Laboratory data – if proven to be authentic – are followed up diligently and professionally, ensuring that justice is served.

Whether it is athletes, the sports movement, governments of the world, National Anti-Doping Organizations, laboratories, service providers or other parties involved, every stakeholder has a role to play – each cannot do it alone. While we may disagree on various points or on how best to deal with the challenges we face, we are all closely aligned in our desire to keep doping out of sport. Partners must work together and with respect in order to achieve that so just as I commit to a redoubling of WADA's efforts, I also call on you all never to take your eyes off the goal of clean sport and to stand strong with us against those who would endeavour to bring down the global anti-doping system. Division helps nobody except those who are trying to cheat.



And so, I want to say very clearly here today, you can be assured and emboldened by the fact that we will resolutely protect the integrity of sport whatever challenges or dissent we may face.

Now more than ever, it is vitally important that we continue to develop a strong, united community that can increase confidence and trust in the global anti-doping system. Unity will be our strength!

Thank you and please make the most of this Symposium.