



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Education and Culture
Youth, Sport And Citizenship
Sport

EU Conference on Anti-Doping

Organised by the European Commission
Athens, Greece, Wednesday, 13 May to Friday, 15 May 2009

Video Message Commissioner Figel'

Dear friends of sport,

I am glad that you have found your way to Athens to attend the EU Conference on Anti-Doping organised by the Commission. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Mayor of Athens and his officials, who have provided valuable assistance in the organisation of this event and who have kindly offered to organise a cultural event.

I regret that I am not able to join you in Athens. Long-standing commitments in other countries have kept me from travelling to Greece.

However, I am confident that my services have devised a really interesting programme and brought together the key European players in the fight against doping. And I am sure that the conference will be a success.

The idea to organise this conference was initially brought to me by Manolis Mavrommatis, MEP, whose active involvement in sport and sport journalism is familiar to most of you.

As an MEP, Manolis Mavrommatis was the rapporteur for the European Parliament's report on the Commission's White Paper on Sport. I am mentioning this because the continued interest in sport and in anti-doping shown by the European Parliament is important. MEPs, as the representatives of the people of Europe, remind us, the Commission, of some of the issues that citizens really care about.

I wish to extend a special word of welcome to the representatives of WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency. Having you here the next two days is very important. The values of the EU, the Council of Europe and WADA are the same and the EU supports the important role played by WADA. It is no coincidence that our Member States support WADA to such a high degree.

And I would like to underline that the Commission is having a very good and constructive dialogue with WADA. Meeting in Montreal, Canada, on Saturday 9 May, the Executive Committee of WADA adopted a revised International Standard for the Protection of Privacy (ISPP). You will have noticed from the conference programme that this is an important topic for the discussions which you are going to have here in Athens.

The revised Standard replaces the Standard that entered into force on 1 January 2009, which posed problems from the perspective of EU legislation on the protection of personal data. I greet the adoption of this revised Standard and would like to present WADA and its Chairman Mr John Fahey with my compliments and thanks on this occasion.

The revised Standard is a successful outcome of cooperation between the EU, the Council of Europe and WADA. My staff and I are looking forward to continued dialogue and cooperation with WADA over some additional data protection issues which are still pending.

We need a fight against doping that is both efficient, effective and equitable. We need to deliver while also treating people decently and respecting their rights as citizens and workers. This is the reason why WADA should be thanked for assuming the difficult task of creating a worldwide standard in an area where there was none.

I also greatly appreciate our excellent cooperation on anti-doping matters with the Council of Europe. Europe truly speaks with a single voice in the fight against doping.

In this spirit, please let me wish to all of you that this conference will contribute to progress on a number of concrete topics that are on the agenda, as well as to a better understanding among the various players who are involved in the fight against doping in Europe.

Together we can do great things for clean sports – in Europe and in the world. I wish you a successful conference. Thank you.