

**OPENING CEREMONY OF WORLD CONFERENCE
ON DOPING IN SPORT**

**COPENHAGEN, 3 MARCH 2003
MAIN EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT ROGGE'S ADDRESS**

(Introduction)

...The revelations of the Tour de France taught us that 30 years of parallel but uncoordinated efforts by governments and the sports movement were not successful. The sports movement called for the help of governments within WADA and the governments have accepted. I would like to thank them for that.

Since then, WADA has developed commendable activities. We now have a headquarters, an administration, we have the new but important concept of independent observers, out of competition testing. WADA is now preparing the list of banned substances and methods. It has entered into scientific research, education. Is this enough? Not yet. **WADA will be able to bring real added value if we harmonise our roles and regulations. WADA will be effective if we all accept the Anti Doping Code. Of course, this code is only a means to an end, and the end is to fight better against the scourge of doping. It is the most important piece of our activities. I therefore urge the sports movement and the Governments alike to approve, adopt and implement the final version of the code.**

Ladies and gentlemen, **there should be no place in the Olympic Games for International Federations and National Olympic Committees who refuse to implement the code. Likewise, no organisation of the Olympic Games should be awarded to a country whose Government has neglected or refused to implement the code and I urge all IFs and NOCs to apply the same philosophy.**

The code itself is a compromise of the opinion of many stakeholders. There are different points of view and different angles and each one of us will have to make some concessions because no text can be perfect. But we have to do that in order to achieve this very important development.

The IOC will accept the current version of the code, even if for example we find the wording on the athletes from professional leagues not strong enough. But we reckon that will be addressed in the future. The IOC therefore urges everyone to accept the code and of course asks WADA to accept reasonable amendments if any.

Ladies and gentlemen, **WADA is at cross roads. If the sports movement implements the final version of the code before the opening of the Athens Games in 2004; if the governments do the same preferably also by 2004, and if really needed by the opening of the Turin Games in 2006; if a solution can be found for the level of funding of WADA; if WADA develops a strategy which is complimentary to the already existing activities of governments and the sports movement; then the future is bright. If not, WADA will become irrelevant.**

Be assured of the total support of the IOC for the further development of WADA. We have a tremendous responsibility toward the youth of each country and of the world. Doping is not only an issue for elite sports. It attacks also the recreational sports and it attacks the youth as such when we see there is a wider use of anabolic steroids outside the organised sports movement.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you very good proceedings.