

We need reforms to boost the independent anti-doping work

The National Anti Doping Agency of Germany (NADA) looked back on an eventful year 2016 at its annual press conference at the Otto Bock Science Center in Berlin on Thursday 1 June.

"Our prevention team has travelled 160,000 kilometers during the last year alone. And for a crucial goal: The protection of clean athletes", said Dr. Andrea Gotzmann, Chairperson of NADA's Executive Board. "Thanks to adequate financial means provided by the Federal Government, we were able to make an important contribution to clean sport on 2016: with a comprehensive doping control system and sustainable doping prevention."

Key focus of our work in 2016 was a comprehensive control program in the run-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). In addition to extending the prevention work on the Federal State level made possible by a newly established cooperation between NADA and the Federal States and the allocation of EUR 500,000. In 2016, NADA also intensified its cooperation with law enforcement authorities. "Last year, 28 offences under the new Anti-Doping Act were reported by NADA. We organized numerous workshops and discussions with prosecutors and investigators in 2016 and will keep on doing so to expand our cooperation further", said Dr. Lars Mortsiefer, member of NADA's Executive Board and Head of its Legal Department.

However, national anti-doping measures alone are not sufficient. "It is essential for NADA to ensure that athletes are tested according to recognized standards all over the world with a comparable control frequency and full access to prevention measures. Regrettably, this is not the case so far. The non-transparent and inconsistent approach of the International Olympic Committee and the International Federations towards the prosecution of the extensive doping in Russia has seriously damaged the anti-doping work. It has become clearer than ever how important independent anti-doping work is, outside of Sports Federations, to protect clean athletes", said Gotzmann: "Now, we will have to reestablish the confidence in the international anti-doping work."

This requires urgent reforms. To restore the credibility of worldwide anti-doping efforts, conflicts of interests in international sports have to be dissolved, within WADA, too. Just as WADA must be given sufficient sanctioning powers when anti-doping rules have not been implemented in accordance with the WADA-Code. The newly initiated review of anti-doping organisations' compliance is a first step on that road.

In addition to the expertise of WADA, it will be the independent National Anti-Doping Organisations' (NADOs') task to make a considerably stronger impact with their anti-doping work in the future. "Established National Anti-Doping Organisations professionally deal with anti-doping 365 days a year and they have accumulated enormous expertise in the last 15 years. They are the ones who provide most of the prevention events around the world and about 70% of all controls. They have to be key interlocutors in sports", said Gotzmann: "The launch of an Independent Testing Authority organized and controlled by sport itself, without any participation of the NADOs, will not work."

Our [Annual Report](#) gives an overview of NADA's work in 2016.

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