

July 25, 2018 Helsinki Hearing

Conducted by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, good afternoon. My name is Travis T. Tygart, and I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). I want to thank this Commission for its interest in clean sport and for the invitation to appear before you today to discuss how we can better protect the rights of athletes and the integrity of competition.

It is an honor for me to be here representing the USADA Board, our small but talented professional staff, and clean athletes from across the United States for whom we advocate every day. It is also an honor for USADA, a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, incorporated in Colorado, to be a part of such an important discussion. We also greatly appreciate the ongoing support of Congress and the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy in our efforts to protect the health, safety and rights of clean athletes and the integrity of competition.

We have arrived at a critical juncture for the soul of sport – a moment of truth, if you will. And today, I want to speak to the Commission about not only the significant and urgent threats facing clean athletes and fair play, but also about the very feasible solutions to these problems.

First, the challenges: The truth is, fairness and integrity in athletic competition — two principles at the very heart of why we play and love sports — hang in the balance. They have been abused and are currently under attack. And, if we don't act soon to enact reforms necessary to protect the rights of clean athletes and to preserve a level playing field – both here in the United States and around the world – we will be committing an unacceptable injustice to today's athletes, fans, broadcasters and sponsors who believe in, and invest in, fair and clean competition; and equally intolerable, we risk shattering the dreams of tens of millions of young kids from around the world.

You will hear from Russian world class athlete, Yulia Stepanov, about how a belief in a powerful dream coupled with a nugget of truth led her to be the first and by far most courageous “whistleblower” doing the truly unimaginable by standing up to Russian thugs, corruption and mafia tactics that overtook sport in her country. You will hear about the

crushed dreams and lost hopes of an American skeleton athlete, Katie Uhlaender, who is also a victim of this corrupt Russian sport system and who while knowing in her heart she was a legitimate medalist in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games, is still being deprived of her rightful medal and recognition.

As an independent anti-doping organization, we view athletes, like Yulia and Katie, — and their powerful stories — as our guiding light, our North Star. Their stories give us hope, they remind us of our purpose, and they provide us the fuel to continue to fight for their right to clean and fair competition.

But, we need to ask ourselves something. And we need to be honest. How many more Yulias will we allow to be abused? How many more podium moments stolen from athletes like Katie? How many more medals will be handed over years after a competition — before we finally understand the importance of enforcing clean sport and fair competition? Katie and millions of other clean athletes from around the world who can't be here today ... they are why this matters.

Now, in order to effectively protect the integrity of competition, we must first understand how and why the system is under attack. It's because Russia's widespread, state-supported doping system that corrupted and defrauded international sport was exposed. The astounding lengths to which Russia's corrupt system went to deceive the world, anti-doping officials and other athletes, was in many ways, a nightmare realized.

By now you've read and heard the facts: Shadow laboratories, tampering by Russian intelligence officers, samples swapped and passed through a hole in a wall under the cover of darkness, male DNA in female samples, and emails to and from the Russian Ministry of Sport determining which doped athletes the system would protect, and which ones it would sacrifice.

The corruption has been proven to have been orchestrated and supported by Russian government and sport officials within the Russian system. The scandal spread across 30-plus

sports, lasting from at least 2011 to 2015. The evidence clearly shows at least, two Olympics Games and possibly hundreds of other competitions, were corrupted, failing to fully deliver on their promise.

At the end of the day, despite mountains of evidence and vocal opposition from anti-doping groups — ourselves included — the IOC chose not to stand up for clean athletes and against institutionalized doping. Instead, the IOC welcomed the Russian Olympic Committee to the Rio Games.

Still attempting to recover from its failure to take a firm stand against corruption prior to the Rio Games and fumbling around with Russia's refusal to acknowledge and fix the corruption, shockingly the IOC eventually only suspended the Russian Olympic Committee for a few weeks and allowed over 160 Russian athletes to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

On behalf of those we serve along with anti-doping leaders from around the world, we have been consistent and firm, the IOC missed — or ignored — a defining moment to confront, in the clearest way possible, the win-at-all-costs culture of corruption through doping in global sport. It was an opportunity to draw an unambiguous line in the sand; a chance to stand up for clean athletes -- a chance to show clean athletes they cared, to send a message, loud and clear, that this type of fraudulent behavior will not be tolerated in Olympic sport. Yet, when the decisive moment arrived, when the lights were shining brightest, the IOC failed to lead.

Certainly, history will not judge that decision kindly.

However, out of the Russian doping scandal, two silver linings have emerged. The first: More than ever before athletes are mobilizing, voicing their opinions and fighting for a level playing field. And second: We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to break through entrenched positions for the good of clean athletes and the future of sport. We have the chance to implement the reforms necessary to make sure the kind of state-supported doping we saw in Russia is never again allowed to abuse athletes by forcing them to endanger their health and

safety to use dangerous drugs for a sport and government system's bad purpose.

To get there... the road to reform starts with independence. I've had the privilege to speak to Congress several times before about the "matrix of effectiveness" for anti-doping programs, about the elements of an effective anti-doping program – one armed not just to say there is "drug testing" for sport brand value purposes but to actually win the battle for clean athletes. In the U.S. and in many countries around the globe, these key elements such as, ensuring year-round, no-notice, out-of-competition testing for both blood and urine and conducting robust intelligence gathering and investigations, have been implemented and proved successful. Clean athletes can succeed when the current rules are implemented with determination and will to win for clean athletes.

Yet, the problems which currently plague the global anti-doping system are even more basic. The most vital principle of an effective anti-doping system is that it must be free from the influence of sport governing bodies. It must be independent and serious about protecting clean athletes.

Since our founding in 2000, we at USADA have advocated for a clear separation between those who promote sport and those who police it. To do so otherwise, we believe, is to encourage the fox to guard the henhouse. No matter how well intended it might begin, it simply does not work. The conflict of interest is too great and clean athletes will always lose out.

This matter of independence is without question the most important issue facing global anti-doping efforts today. In fact, it's likely the entire Russian state-supported doping scandal would have been exposed much sooner by the many good men and women staffed at the global oversight body for anti-doping in sport — the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) — had its governance not been hamstrung by its own lack of true independence.

We know now that WADA and the IOC had compelling evidence, from whistleblowers Yulia and Vitaly Stephanov, about systematic Russian cheating for several years prior to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Yet, action to protect clean athletes only happened after

the whistleblowers – frustrated by inaction – took their story to the media. Even then, however, it took persistent lobbying by clean sport advocates including some within WADA’s own internal staff to finally convince its leaders to open up the initial Russian investigation which began in January 2015.

The good news is that WADA’s conflicted governance model could be easily solved by removing sport leaders from the WADA leadership and implementing a proper conflict-of-interest policy which prohibits governing members from simultaneously holding a governing role within a sports organization under WADA’s jurisdiction.

The fix for the IOC – which has experienced significant backlash from clean athletes in the wake of its inaction and poor handling of this sordid affair – is just as simple. In fact, we’ve said publicly on numerous occasions that if the IOC really wanted to put clean athletes and fair play first, they could. We believe that they could do it today.

Since this Russian sport corruption was exposed, at least 37 National Anti-Doping Organizations from around the world, with the support of athletes and others have put forth a series of specific proposals designed to reform and strengthen the global anti-doping model.

The path forward is outlined in what has been called the “Copenhagen Reform Declaration.” The reforms are simple yet effective and include:

- Remove the fundamental conflict of interest that exists when anti-doping decisions are controlled by sport organizations.
- Strengthen WADA through improved independence, transparency, and increased investment.
- Increase and make clear WADA’s ability to investigate, monitor compliance and impose sanctions, so that countries and organizations which engage in state-supported doping are held accountable.
- Provide the opportunity for athletes who have been robbed by doping to have significant and meaningful recognition and celebration, including the swift reallocation of any

medals.

- Increase support and protection for whistleblowers around the world.

The failure of sport to do the right thing in confronting institutional fraud through doping and the refusal of sport to implement meaningful reforms has directly led us here today. Since sport has failed to make the basic reforms necessary to ensure this type of corruption never happens again, governments of the world that value fair play and that do not want to see athletes or corporations defrauded by kleptocrats should step up and fight back. The status quo is doomed to fail and we support efforts by governments and others to ensure that clean, true sport prevails.

We appreciate the Commission's work to explore ways to stop corrupt actors that organize and facilitate doping fraud, to protect whistleblowers and to take meaningful action.

We whole heartedly support the goal of ensuring corrupt organizations and enterprises that defraud athletic competitions like what the Russians did never happens again. We feel confident making WADA independent as discussed above will preserve the many effective parts of the global system that have worked and also cure the problems that allowed state supported fraud to remain secret and then go unpunished for so long. Likewise, as mentioned above, we and our international partners support greater protection for truthful "whistleblowers" to encourage and incentivize them in speaking up and making it easier for them to obtain access to safe and secure living as well as to end any retaliation against them.

Several of these concepts are in the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Fraud Act and we support them. Additionally, we are ready to assist to help ensure any legislation that is ultimately passed is precise, effective and successful. We also are here to provide guidance, as appropriate, to ensure no unintended consequences arise that would undermine the tremendous progress that has been made since 2000 in advancing the interests of clean athletes and fair sport.

We look forward to discussing these issues and working with the Commission going forward on this topic and to evolve the legislation to best achieve the goal of stopping criminal

behavior in international sport perpetuated by nations and organizations and by protecting truthful whistleblowers.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for those of us who value the rights of clean athletes and the preservation of a fair, safe and healthy playing field – this is our moment. As a global community that deeply cares about athletes’ rights and health, we must merely find the resolve and the courage.

The personal well-being of the next generation of clean athletes hangs in the balance. This is not just about elite Olympic athletes -- this is about every kid on a playground who has an Olympic dream and asks “what do I have to do to make my dreams come true?” And the truth is, if we don't push, if we don't win, we will likely find ourselves back in this same position, years from now, staring another state-supported doping system in the face – one that has abused its athletes, and robbed another generation of clean athletes in the process.

And, we will all be wondering why we didn't do more when we had the chance.