



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Office of the Director General

To Presidents and Secretaries General
of International Federations

Lausanne, 7 September 2017
Ref. CDK/hgr
By e-mail only

Independent Testing Authority (ITA)

Dear Presidents,

Dear Secretaries General,

On behalf of the IOC President, I am pleased to provide you with the following update and information on the Independent Testing Authority (ITA) and on the evolution of its creation since the various discussions during your institutional meetings during the last SportAccord Convention in Aarhus, Denmark

In 2015 and 2016, the Olympic Summit, which brings together the leading representatives of the Olympic Movement, called for the creation of a new anti-doping testing unit. This new ITA would be created to eliminate either perceived or real conflicts of interests for International Federations (IFs) and Major Event Organisers (MEOs), such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in fulfilling their obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code). At the same time, the ITA would be specifically designed to strengthen the worldwide fight against doping, and the anti-doping system itself.

The creation of the ITA was first studied by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to conduct a feasibility study. WADA also established a working group, which included the IOC and IF representatives, and which reviewed the PwC feasibility study. In addition, WADA also set up the ITA steering group, composed of representatives from the public authorities and the Olympic Movement. The conclusion of this ITA steering group was that, as the global regulator in the field of anti-doping, and for reasons related to conflicts of interests, WADA could not lead the creation of such an organisation itself. However, the steering group supported the concept of the ITA and made a recommendation accordingly to WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board, which approved its creation at their May 2017 meetings.

For this reason, since May this year, the IOC has taken the lead in creating the ITA, which will assist IFs and MEOs to achieve compliance by providing "not-for-profit" doping controls and other related services. In this regard, the IOC further commissioned PwC to refine the feasibility study by developing a business model, a summary of which you will find enclosed. The IOC is also working in close cooperation with ASOIF, AIOWF, GAISF and WADA in the creation and development of the ITA. GAISF is playing a key role in the creation of this new organisation by providing its Doping Free Sport Unit (DFSU) as the

nucleus of the ITA, and the DFSU's activities related to doping controls will be transferred to the new organisation.

Corporate structure and establishment

The ITA is being established as a Swiss foundation with the purpose of contributing to the protection of clean athletes as well as the integrity of sport, as well as contributing to the fight against doping in sport worldwide. For those joining the ITA, this will not only mark a clear commitment to fight doping and to protect sport and athletes, but it will also be a contribution to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of anti-doping testing as well as enhancing the use of intelligence across sports and countries. The ITA will also be a means to consolidate IFs' efforts and resources by further uniting the world of sport in the fight against doping and by leveraging our collective power. To that end, the ITA will provide independent, comprehensive, "at cost" doping control and other related services, including doping controls as defined in the Code, and which are detailed in the enclosed ITA Business Model summary. It must be noted, however, that for the time being, the ITA will not become a signatory to the WADA Code. Accordingly, IFs and MEOs using the services provided by the ITA will remain Code Signatories and therefore responsible for their respective compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

The ITA Business Model has been built on the "pay-per-use" principle to avoid an increase in costs for IFs compared to the current operations and context. The Portfolio of the ITA's Services is also included in the document, and use of the ITA will facilitate economies of scale. In addition, in July, while approving the Business Model, the IOC Executive Board also agreed to cover the start-up costs, so that these would not be borne by the IFs and MEOs joining the ITA. Earlier this month, the IOC Executive Board also reviewed and approved the ITA's statutes, which the IOC will submit to the Swiss Foundations Supervisory Authority for review before carrying out the formal incorporation of the ITA. This will be done in the course of September.

Appointment of ITA staff

As mentioned above, the ITA is being created from the nucleus of the GAISF DFSU, which currently provides doping control and other related services to many IFs and MEOs. The IOC is also in the process of selecting an executive recruitment agency, on behalf of the ITA and in accordance with its statutes, to identify candidates for the position of ITA Director General. The candidates identified will be submitted for a decision by the ITA Foundation Board once this has been officially established.

The IOC is currently drafting the job description for the Director General position, which will be submitted to ASOIF, AIOWF, GAISF and WADA for their review. The first task of the Director General will be to implement the business model.

Governance

To guarantee the independence as well as the effectiveness of the organisation, and for good governance purposes, the ITA steering group, set up by WADA and which had its last meeting in May this year, supported the proposal that the ITA Foundation Board be composed of five voting members (one independent Chair, one IOC representative, one IF representative, one athlete representative and one independent member) and as well as one ex-officio, non-voting member, representing WADA.

To ensure good governance best practices, the ITA steering group also agreed that the five voting members would be proposed by the sports movement and submitted, following a review process defined in the ITA Statutes, to the WADA Executive Committee for final approval.

Respecting the above, the five potential first members have been identified and discussed amongst the Olympic Movement leadership, and will now be reviewed by a Nominations Panel before being submitted to the WADA Executive Committee. The names will be made public once all the members have been agreed upon.

Timeline and establishment

The IOC, with the strong cooperation of the Olympic Movement and WADA, is working so that the ITA can be formally incorporated before the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. In the meantime, the IOC is also working with the DFSU to ensure that there is an independent overview of the anti-doping programme at the Games in PyeongChang. Once the ITA is created, and after the Games in PyeongChang, the ITA will be able to start working with those IFs which have already expressed their willingness to delegate their anti-doping programmes. For those IFs which are currently clients of the DFSU, a smooth transition plan is being established with the objective of these IFs becoming official ITA clients by 1 January 2019. For 2018, and as soon as the DFSU activities are integrated within the ITA, the current DFSU contract will be subcontracted by GAISF to the ITA. GAISF DFSU clients will be directly contacted in this regard.

With the ITA, we are committed to creating an efficient anti-doping service provider dedicated to sports organisations but operating independently from sports. Greater efficiency will also be achieved by the sharing of experience centralised through the ITA. In this regard, we strongly encourage those amongst you who are interested in joining the ITA to contact us through my office (hannah.grossenbacher@olympic.org) or for any questions you may have. An update on the ITA will also be given at the IOC Session in Lima, and Dr Richard Budgett, IOC Medical and Scientific Director, together with Mr Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, will be available there to discuss and answer any of your questions. Joining the ITA is a confirmation of our mutual commitment to fight doping in sport and to offer a level playing field to our athletes.

I look forward to strengthening our partnership in the protection of clean sport and clean athletes and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Christophe De Kepper
Director General

Encl. Summary of the ITA Business Model

cc: IOC President, ASOIF President, AIOWF President, ANOC President, GAISF President, IOC AC Chair, WADA President