

**Interview with R. Klaus Muller,
Chair of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention since 2004
(19.06.2006)**



Question: *What are, in your opinion, the main achievements of the Intergovernmental work within the framework of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe, since it entered into force in 1989?*

R. Klaus Mueller: Within the framework of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe, there have been several achievements, and a new phase in Anti-Doping strategy has been developed, in comparison with the 1990's.

The ratification of the Convention has not only led to discussions on the fight against doping, but also to an increasing harmonisation. Differences between countries have been highlighted by the Anti-Doping Database. The Compliance with Commitments programme assists member states in the development of better practices, by monitoring the implementation of the convention through the organisation of consultative and evaluation visits.

One could say that the Council of Europe, the Monitoring Group, and several European representatives have played an essential role in the establishment of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), in the elaboration of the World Anti-Doping Code and its Standard Documents (mainly the Prohibited List), and more recently in the creation of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.

Question : *Does the ratification of the Anti-Doping Convention by 45 European States plus Australia, Canada and Tunisia, signify that all European countries work together in unison in the fight against doping, or are there many differences in the level of commitment between countries?*

R. Klaus Mueller: Although all 45 European States plus Australia, Canada and Tunisia declared the same intentions and signified the same commitment by their ratification, there remain certain differences in Anti-Doping efficiency. In developing countries (mainly the East), economic setbacks still need to be overcome, however, lack of commitment and willingness must be brought to light and corrected through the Database and Consultative and Evaluation Visits.

Question : *At a time when WADA is assuming a stronger role and a world convention has been adopted by UNESCO, is the Council of Europe's role in combating doping still as important as it used to be?*

R. Klaus Mueller: When, in addition to WADA, the World Anti-doping Convention of UNESCO comes into force – which is highly desirable with the ratification of a minimum of 30 states –, the Council of Europe Convention will remain a significant partner to both. It will continue to support further improvements and developments in European countries, which have been forerunners in the fight against doping in the past. It will continue to work with the most active partners outside Europe

towards the goal of global improvements and harmonisation on the base of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe, which is clearly a role model for the global combat for fair play through clean sport.