

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (79) 8

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES CONCERNING DOPING IN SPORT

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 April 1979
at the 303rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Affirming that its Resolution (67) 12 on "Doping of athletes" remains a valid condemnation of the harm caused by the use of doping agents to the ethical and moral values of sport and to human dignity ;

Recalling its Resolution (76) 41 on the "Principles for a policy of sport for all" (the "European Sport for All Charter") and in particular Article V, which states that "methods should be sought to safeguard sport and sportsmen from exploitation for political, commercial or financial gain and from practices that are abusive and debasing, including the unfair use of drugs" ;

Considering that many of the problems raised by the taking of illicit substances for the purpose of artificially improving sporting performances are still unresolved, and that in some respects this evil practice has become more widespread since the adoption of Resolution (67) 12 ;

Bearing in mind the resolution on doping and health adopted at the 2nd Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport at London in 1978, and that some member states have enacted national legislation forbidding the use of doping agents in sport ;

Considering that the member states of the Council of Europe should take a lead in combating the problems of doping in sport, and that governments and the voluntary bodies of sport should work together to this end,

Recommends the governments of member states :

1. to give all the support in their power to the governing bodies of sport, athletes and all those associated with sport in their efforts to eradicate doping (as defined in Resolution (67) 12) in sport and to encourage them to take the steps necessary for the simplification and harmonisation of the various anti-doping regulations adopted by the sports federations ;
2. to develop, in co-ordination with the governing bodies of sport, an educational campaign pointing out both to athletes and to coaches, directors and other people involved, the risks involved in using or advocating the use of doping agents, in particular that many such agents present serious long-term dangers to health ; that their use does not always result in an improvement of performance ; and that the way to success is not the use of doping agents but rather the development of each individual's personal qualities of character, physique and mind ;
3. to set up systems for the control of the use of artificial stimulants in sport and to this end :
 - a. to encourage the development and testing, in laboratories, of effective methods for detecting the use of illicit substances in sport, and in particular those substances the use of which

is forbidden either by the international governing bodies of sport or by national legislation in those countries where such legislation exists ;

b. to increase their contribution to European co-operation in research into doping, and in particular into the detection and control of new substances capable of being used for the purpose of doping in sport ;

c. to encourage as a priority the creation of suitable laboratories for the comprehensive testing and control of sportsmen, and in particular :

— to ensure by whatever may be the most appropriate means in each country that sportsmen and federations can make effective and continuous use of such laboratories,

— to encourage international co-operation, both bilaterally and within the Council of Europe, so that those member states without such laboratories may have reasonable access to laboratories in other states and to the experience, skills and techniques necessary for them to set up such laboratories at a later stage,

— to encourage the harmonisation of technical procedures of high standard in these laboratories,

— to take steps to ensure that such laboratories are manned by properly qualified and experienced staff and to make provision for the training of personnel from other member states in the training programmes ;

4. to consider, where this has not already been done, the creation of a national anti-doping committee (which could consist of representatives from the sports federations, national confederations of sport, governmental administrations responsible for sport and for public health) in order to provide the necessary liaison between the parties involved in the efforts to eradicate the problems of doping in sport ;

5. to consider in what ways they might most suitably support those athletes or federations who as a result of taking a stand against the use of illicit substances in sport suffer material consequences ;

6. to report to the Secretary General, by 1 March 1980, on measures taken in implementation of this recommendation.