

**Rune Andersen – independent chairperson of the IAAF Taskforce for Russia –  
address to 51<sup>st</sup> IAAF Congress, 3 August 2017**

Thank you Mr President for that introduction and for the opportunity to speak to Congress today about the work that the Taskforce has undertaken to date.

No doubt everyone was shocked in late 2015 when the news emerged of how the previous RusAF regime had failed to protect their own clean athletes and to prevent the cheating of other nations. Since then, many violations have been uncovered, and numerous medals have had to be forfeited.

As the president mentioned, our task has been to work with RusAF and the Russian authorities to ensure they clearly understand what is required of them to cure these failings, and to support and assist RusAF in satisfying all of the conditions to reinstatement of RusAF to IAAF membership.

The taskforce has worked hard at this task for 18 months and counting. As the president mentioned, we have been to Moscow seven times to meet with representatives of RusAF, the Russian Olympic committee, and the Russian government, and we have also met with them four times outside of Russia, so eleven times in total. We have also exchanged many documents, as well as periodic status reports recording clearly where they have got to against each reinstatement condition.

And earlier this year, at RusAF's request, we identified six remaining 'milestones' on the roadmap back to full RusAF reinstatement, and since then we have worked hard with RusAF to assist it in reaching each of those milestones.

It is fair to say that the path has not always been completely smooth. There have been some bumps along the way, usually in the form of political statements or interventions that have not always been entirely helpful. And progress on some points has definitely been quicker than on others.

But i do want to pay tribute to Dmitri Shlakhtin and the colleagues he brought with him when he was elected as RusAF president in early 2016. Dmitri clearly understands the need to change the doping culture that clearly existed in Russian

athletics in the past. He understands the harm that culture has caused to clean athletes everywhere, as the apology he just extended to those cheated out of medals demonstrates. It is a measure of the man, and an important step on the road to rehabilitation of Russian athletics, that he is willing to acknowledge that offence publicly.

I should also say, and I think Dmitri would agree with me, that it is only because of the very strong stand that the IAAF council has taken that he has been able to persuade Russian athletics and the Russian authorities that the old culture has to change. In my view, the IAAF should be proud of the role it has played in this regard.

Dmitri has already explained some of the key steps that have been taken in Russia to change the doping culture and to instil a new culture in favour of clean sport. But what is still left to do?

Going quickly through each of the six outstanding 'milestones' to reinstatement:

- 1. RusAF still has to complete some of the specific tasks set out in the 'verification criteria' included in the taskforce's original terms of reference, issued in december 2015**

In particular, there are still some disciplinary cases to be completed, and some athletes and coaches still to be interviewed. Some work still needs to be done, particularly in areas of the country far from RusAF's HQ in Moscow, to instil support for the new anti-doping culture in the sport, and to encourage athletes who are offered drugs in the future to blow the whistle on such activities.

- 2. Testing of Russian athletes must take place without adverse incidents or difficulties.**

While the IAAF has continued to test international-level Russian athletes throughout, the amount of testing that has been conducted at national level in Russia has been limited while RUSADA (the Russian NADO) has been suspended. However, WADA has recently agreed that RUSADA can start testing again. And the Russian authorities have also started granting access to so-called 'closed cities' to

test athletes living or working there. So there are some promising signs, and we hope that testing will continue in Russia without any further difficulties or adverse incidents.

**3. RusAF is to provide a written report explaining how it will enforce doping bans in the future**

The IAAF has sought and obtained lengthy bans (including life bans) of the various coaches, doctors and administrators identified in the original WADA independent commission report, for encouraging doping by RusAF athletes.

But you may have seen the German TV documentaries showing that certain of those coaches continued to coach athletes even after being banned.

This is obviously a matter of great concern to the taskforce, and also (it is clear) to RusAF. And we have worked with Dmitri to understand the reasons why they have found it hard to enforce these doping bans against coaches.

Based on our most recent meeting, we are hopeful that they have found a way to ensure they can stop banned coaches from working with their athletes, and we received a report from them just this morning which we will now review.

**4. The Russian authorities have to provide an appropriate response to the findings in the McLaren report that officials at the ministry of sport, the FSB, and the centre for sport preparation were involved in the doping scheme**

This is obviously vital: if the Russian authorities do not acknowledge properly what happened in the past, there can be no assurance that it will not be repeated in the future.

We know that this is not in the gift of RusAF, but we have been clear with the ministry of sport what must be done, and we know that WADA has required the same as a condition of reinstatement of RUSADA (and the IPC has required the same as a condition of reinstatement of the Russian paralympic committee).

We have been promised a response and await it with interest.

**5. RusAF must support the new 'clean sport movement' that has emerged in Russian athletics.**

The 'clean sport movement' is an initiative of a small number of high level Russian athletes and coaches, seeking to persuade their colleagues that they can win without resorting to cheating.

The taskforce believes it is a very important initiative, and we were very encouraged at our last meeting to hear that RusAF fully supports the initiative, and has launched a social media campaign, headed by national team head coach Yuri Borzakovski, to show that the whole of the national team supports the clean sport movement.

And the last of the six milestones is:

**6. That RUSADA is reinstated by WADA as the fully code-compliant national anti-doping organisation for Russia.**

Just today, NWADA published the roadmap setting out what more RUSADA needs to do in order to be reinstated by WADA, and it appears this could happen as early as November 2017, when the WADA foundation board meets in Korea.

In conclusion, then, it is clear (and Dmitri has not disputed) that the conditions that council set for reinstatement of RusAF have not yet all been met. There are several steps that still have to be taken, in order to ensure full compliance with all requirements, and so that Russian athletes can be readmitted to international competitions with full trust and confidence.

But RusAF and the Russian authorities can complete those steps, as and when they choose to do so; their fate is in their own hands. If they want to complete those steps, they can do so, without much further delay, perhaps even as soon as November 2017.

And as and when they do complete them, then the taskforce will be ready to recommend RusAF's reinstatement as a member of the IAAF.

That must not happen, however, until all of the conditions that council set (and RusAF accepted) have been met. Having taken such a strong stance, that has

prompted so much change in Russian athletes and Russian sport more broadly, now is not the time to back down. And that is why the taskforce unanimously supports council's proposal that **congress resolve to continue the suspension of RusAF until all of the conditions set by council for reinstatement of RusAF to IAAF membership have been met.**

If congress passes that resolution, then the taskforce will be happy to continue its work, supporting and assisting the Russian authorities to complete the remaining tasks as quickly as possible, so that RusAF can be readmitted to the IAAF family as soon as possible.