

Foreword

In 2000, an international research group consisting of sports law experts from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), the T.M.C. Asser Institute for International Law, The Hague (The Netherlands), the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg i.B. (Germany), and the Anglia Polytechnic University, Chelmsford (United Kingdom), was asked by the European Commission to undertake a research study on “Legal Comparison and the Harmonisation of Doping Rules” within the framework of the “Pilot Project for Campaigns to Combat Doping in Sport in Europe”.

The final report of the research study was presented on 7 November 2001 and was discussed at an international conference in Brussels, which was organised by the T.M.C. Asser Institute with the support of the Flemish Ministry for Sports during the Belgian EU Presidency. The conference was attended by representatives of international sports federations, as well as sports ministries and national sports organisations from the EU Member States.

The European Commission commissioned the study during the initial stages of the drafting of a World Anti-Doping Code. In the years following the publication of the study, work on the World Anti-Doping Code continued and was finally completed with the adoption of the “WADA Code” in 2004. The study may be considered to have contributed significantly to the completion of this work, as it provided the drafters of the Code with an important tool, giving them an overview of the doping rules and regulations of national and international sports organisations, including a comparative analysis, as well as a survey and analysis of the relevant public law legislation available. Since the study may be considered to form part of the *travaux préparatoires* underlying the WADA Code, which in the meantime has entered into force and is being applied in practice, the undersigned consider it necessary that the study reflecting the legal situation in 2001 be published as a book. This publication in particular wishes to promote a better understanding of the background of the harmonisation of doping rules and regulations, the results of which may be found in the WADA Code – a milestone in the campaign to combat doping in sports.

In this context, it should be noted that a CD-ROM, which is freely available at the T.M.C. Asser Institute (the ASSER International Sports Law Centre may be contacted through www.sportslaw.nl), contains the full text of the 300 or more doping rules and regulations (Olympic sports) in the EU Member States, as well as of the national reports on the doping legislation of the EU Member States. Being too voluminous to be included in this book, these national reports form an important basis of the study.

Erlangen and The Hague, August 2006 *Klaus Vieweg* (Academic Coordinator)
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