

La Conversion, 13 October 2016

Mr Thomas **BACH**

President of the IOC

Château de Vidy

CH-1007 Lausanne

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to the e-mail of WADA President Reddie in answer to my OpEd in Around<sup>The</sup> Rings of 29 September, I would like to make an appeal to you regarding WADA. I will not comment on Mr Reddie's answer as you and all other IOC Members will assess the respective arguments on their merits.

The dramatic events of the last months in anti-doping have made us all think about WADA's role and responsibilities. I think we have suddenly all realized that this organisation has in fact during 17 years been in the hands of four people: Mr Pound, Mr Howman, Mr Reddie and Mr Niggli. I left out Mr Fahey who unexpectedly was put into the WADA chair without having any experience in anti-doping (which was perhaps convenient for those who wanted to retain the power but definitely not good for WADA).

With all respect for President Reddie, I think nobody familiar with WADA will contest that Mr Pound still has a dominant position within that organization.

Now let me formulate an analysis that is made by many but that probably can be expressed only by someone who has no position and no personal ambitions anymore in the world of sports. The current WADA has to a large extent failed to be a viable and universally trusted and respected anti-doping organization, because - as well as for genuine anti-doping - it has from the beginning (17 years ago) also been used for politics. We all know - but we usually do not dare to say - that there exists a sound anti-IOC and anti-Europe attitude at the level of the WADA leadership. This WADA-leadership (appointed by the IOC, which is the cynical part of the story) usually teams up with a small group of (mainly) Anglo-Saxon NADO's (USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom and Norway/Scandinavia on the sideline) and this has created a division that has allowed the same people to stay at the helm for a way too long period. This "coalition" can also be seen from the composition of the WADA committees (including panels and expert groups) as published on WADA's website. Please note:

- there are 11 WADA committees and 9 (!) of them are chaired by people from Anglo-Saxon countries, obviously the most important committees;
- there are in total 112 members and 56 of them are from Anglo-Saxon countries and 10 are from Scandinavia (so 66 out of 112);
- from the 11 WADA committees, 7 have a majority of Anglo-Saxons and 2 more have a majority of Anglo-saxons and Scandinavians;
- members from Canada and the USA are abundantly present.

WADA has also become a platform for IOC critics to assemble. Obviously all this has had its negative impact on the fight against doping with the current catastrophic situation of WADA as a consequence. My analysis is readily supported when looking at those that oppose the plans to create a new, non-political and efficient WADA.

Furthermore, the positions of Mr Pound against the IOC guarantee him the platform of that part of the press that always has been negative towards the IOC. That press is keen on the cynical soundbites, oneliners and IOC bashing that prevents them to be critical of WADA and Mr Pound in particular.

We have to face up to the inconvenient fact that many within the Olympic Movement are afraid of criticism by WADA and Mr Pound in the sensitive and mediatic field of anti-doping. This fear explains in my view why Mr Pound and friends do not seem to worry about not being nominated anymore and why they have been able to maintain their WADA positions for 17 years, as if there were no other competent people and good governance would not recommend a change from time to time. But of course Mr Pound sees that fear also and it explains why he feels so strong in his lecturing (and in my opinion: even insulting, see e.g. his "redemption" article) the IOC.

Even recognizing the work that WADA and its leadership have done for the fight against doping, that does not allow to turn a blind eye on what went wrong. This has recently culminated in WADA arrogating a public call on the IOC to impose a last minute ban on all Russian athletes from the 2016 Olympic Games, whereas it was precisely WADA that largely contributed to this very problematic situation by not following up promptly and adequately the information it had received since 2010. (I refer in particular to the statements of Mr Robertson, WADA's chief intelligence officer during almost the whole period concerned). Except for one vote, the complete Session rejected this embarrassing blow.

Nevertheless Mr Pound thereupon told the world that the IOC had decided to absolve Russia and it was the IOC that needed redemption.

Personally, although I was asked by Mr Pound to join the WADA Foundation Board, I decided to resign from that Board because I could not caution a situation where I felt the agency had also to serve the political agenda of the president and where the fight against doping was not organized and conducted efficiently. I think the current crisis of anti-doping attests to that as did Mr Pound's headlong flight with his "Lack of effectiveness" report of April 2013. Add to that the vulnerability of ADAMS, the lack of research on meldonium, the ongoing discussion on the prohibited list and TUE's, etc.

As all have seen, my critical stance has earned me the grudge of Mr Pound, and in his wake of Mr Howman and others, in the form of a public harassment for years of cycling, UCI, Pat McQuaid and myself.

On two occasions I had to initiate a court case for defamation against Mr Pound whereupon Mr Pound retracted his statements, which confirms that his naming and shaming was just politics and had no substance.

Together with the new UCI president, WADA set up the CIRC in order to investigate accusations against UCI and myself that were largely supported by or agreeable to WADA and Mr Pound. The CIRC had to conclude that in cycling there was no corruption, no complicity with doping, no tolerance of riders known to be doping. In order to avoid further disappointment of those who set up the CIRC, plenty of other things, including those unrelated to doping, have been put systematically in a negative light, so as to force me to create a website to set the record right and defend my reputation. The detailed analysis by experts showed also the necessity of filing a complaint against WADA, Mr Pound and others with the IOC Ethics Commission which I did in November 2015 and that hopefully will be treated soon.

It has been for me a difficult, costly and also lonesome battle. I had no other choice but to ask the IOC Ethics Commission to have the facts established and justice done. WADA and its leadership seem, however, to be afraid of scrutiny by the Ethics Commission and they have decided to put pressure on me to stop my criticism on them and bring me before a Canadian court for “defamation”, an accusation that I reject of course and will rebut with all my forces left.

My battle was, and still is, also for what I consider to be WADA’s genuine mission in an effective fight to protect clean sport, and in support of the IOC that has the moral leadership of the fight against doping and was and still is repeatedly chafed by the WADA leadership.

Dear Mr. President, I ask for your understanding that it is a rather bitter feeling to realize that the Canadian court case of WADA and Messrs Pound and Howman against me is paid for by the WADA budgets, hence for 50% paid for by the Olympic Movement (the argument might be that WADA has insurances but these do not come for free neither). I therefore ask you to take steps via the Olympic Movement representatives in the WADA Executive and Foundation Board to table this in their next meetings and to stop legal actions against me paid for by WADA (and thus indirectly by the Olympic Movement). If Messrs Pound and Howman wish to prevent the IOC Ethics Commission to handle my complaints against them, then let them pay for this themselves as I had to do and still do.

Thank you for the attention you give to this issue.

Kind regards,

Hein VERBRUGGEN

IOC Honorary Member