

Media Advisory

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Macedonia"
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Strasbourg, 16.02.2009

Press conference with WADA European representative Jaime Lissavetzky and Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio

Date: 14.30 on Wednesday 18 February 2009

Location: Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

Organised by The Council of Europe

Description: Jaime Lissavetzky, Spain's State Secretary for Sport, was recently designated by the Council of Europe as the European representative to the Executive Committee of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). He travels to Strasbourg for an exchange of views with the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and consultations with the **Deputy Secretary General de Boer-Buquicchio** to prepare the next statutory meetings of WADA in Montreal in early May as well as specific issues facing WADA, including the International Standard on the protection of privacy and personal information (ISPP) and the review of the WADA statutes, requested by the Council of Europe. The Deputy Secretary General represents the Council of Europe in WADA's Foundation Board.

Practical information: Any journalist interested in attending the press conference should register with the press contact indicated below.

More information: WADA's statutory organs, the 12-member Executive Committee and the 38-member Foundation Board are composed equally of representatives from the Olympic Movement and public authorities. The Council of Europe, which represents 47 member states, as well as the European Commission, have challenged WADA's International Standard on the protection of privacy and personal information (ISPP), which came into effect last month, against their recommendation along with WADA's new anti-doping code. During the 11th Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport in Athens, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio told the press: "I think we have to make it clear that when it comes to safeguarding the human rights model Europe has been building over the past 60 years, we cannot and will not accept that our arguments are not given a proper hearing... data protection is serious business in Europe." Since the December 2008 conference, several high-profile athletes have publicly criticised the standard as too invasive of their right to privacy.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.