

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY AS A GEOPO- LITICAL BARGAINING TOOL ON THE CUSP OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES 2022 IN BEIJING

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Abstract:

The article describes some modern approaches to the discredit of national sports committees with the usage of resources of the World Anti-Doping Agency in order to pile the political pressure on countries on the cusp of the Olympic Games.

Keywords: the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), globalization, sports and politics, Olympic movement, the International Olympic Committee, sanctions policy, collective responsibility, doping test, Asia-Pacific Region.

Historically, the Olympic Games are an international event that allow raising the credibility of a country on the global stage, as well as strengthening the legitimacy of its government and national love for this country. However, such global sporting events can at the same time lead to the converse effect in case of the fail of the national team. According to the Professor of the Loughborough University, UK, the modern globalized sport of records can not only promote the image of a state, but also can become the source of shame or even financial collapse ¹.

Nowadays many countries are interested in the promotion of their national interests by means of the sporting events, thus, the Olympic movement becomes a sort of world ring for build-up of the foreign image of these countries. The seventh President (1980-2001) of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch noted in his article called "Sport and politics" that the current international relations have a negative influence on the Olympic movement ². According to the article, this impact should be properly suppressed, as the Olympic Games are out of tune with the political interests of the countries, and their goal consists in the development of peace and prosperity, as well as in the development of mutual understanding, solidarity, friendship and ethics.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA, Montreal, Canada) as an autonomous department was found in 2001, after the resignation of the prominent politician Juan Antonio Samaranch. Up to its foundation, the International Olympic Committee dealt with the usage of the banned drugs by itself.

A biased wide-scale campaign for blaming of Russian sport regarding the usage of banned drugs and falsification of positive doping tests took place on the cusp of the Olympic Games in 2016 (Rio de Janeiro). One should make a pointed reference to the regularity and diligent development of stable actions of WADA directed to the discredit of Russia on the global stage. In the first place, the German TV-channel “ARD” broadcasted the infamous documentary film called “The secrets of doping: How Russia makes its winners” in December 2014. In the second place, the WADA published a report of the board, which had examined the activity of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) in November 2015. In the third place, the independent investigation of the expert Richard McLaren was finished; according to it, the Russian authorities developed a way of replacing of positive doping tests of Russian sportsmen with the negative ones.

Based on these measures, the Agency pressed the charges against Russia using the data concerning the supposed rigging of the results of doping tests of 643 sportsmen of 30 sports from 2012 to 2015 ³. Following the results of examination, the WADA demanded to exclude all the Russian sportsmen from participating in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, as well as to dismiss the Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko. Mutko was not dismissed; the executive committee of the International Olympic Committee allowed the Russian team to participate in the Olympic Games subject to reservations. However, the WADA reached their goal partly and the Russian national team was forbidden to participate in competitions under their national flag during the Winter Olympic and Paralympic games 2018 in Pyeongchang.

One should note that these methods of the discredit of Russian sports were being applied at the same time with the realization of the sanctions pol-

icy implemented by the USA and Western countries because of the problem concerning the political status of the Crimea and conflict in the Ukraine ⁴. The USA were at the forefront of the implementation of this policy, the countries of the European Union joined in with the USA under their dictation being at the risk of suffering a loss. The sanctions were supported also by the states of the Group of Seven and some other countries that are the partners of the USA and EU ⁵.

Although the WADA was found in 2001 as an autonomic department whose activity was directed to the control of the intake of the banned drugs, nowadays the substitution of goals and tasks within the framework of the fair sporting games on the global stage is observed. Thus, for example, the WADA attempts to take the leading position, trying to put the International Olympic Committee on the back burner. The Agency tries to invest itself with authority to make decisions concerning the excluding of sportsmen who did not take any banned drugs within the collective responsibility from the participating in the Olympic Games, as well as to deprive the countries of the opportunity to hold the large-scale sporting events. Thus, the WADA being under the control of the interested states, is able to become a geopolitical bargaining tool with help of which could be discredited both countries and nations.

Taking into account the increasing potential for conflict of the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, the current contradictions within the dialogue concerning the economic collaboration between Beijing and Washington, as well as the territorial disputes with the partner countries of the USA (such as Japan or Philippines) and their position concerning Taipei, one can suppose that the Western policymakers are able to apply the tested methods of the

discredit of the Chinese sports system. The aim of such measures is to make the Chinese government take profitable for the USA decisions; otherwise, a biased huge campaign for discredit of country and nation on the global stage is intended.

The WADA began to activate its discrediting and propaganda activities against China on the cusp of a series of the Olympic Games in the Asia-Pacific Region (in 2018 the Olympic Games will be held in the Republic of Korea, in 2020 – in Japan, in 2022 – in China). Therefore, for example, the activity of the Beijing Anti-doping Laboratory was stopped because of the “nonconformance to standards” and possible falsification of tests during the Olympiad-2008, which was held in Beijing ⁶. In the same year, a decision concerning the foundation of a progressive chemical-toxicological laboratory in Tokyo for working with the doping tests for the period of the Olympic Games in the Asia-Pacific Region was made by the representatives of the head-office of the WADA in Montreal.

Considering the unfolding situation, the Chinese government should develop a renewed national anti-doping program, which should include an active collaboration with the International Olympic Committee concerning the countermeasures aimed at the attempts of WADA to compromise the national sports and falsify the results of their internal examinations in favor of the interested states.

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