

Turkish Government Donation Shows Zero Tolerance Approach To Doping

A \$250,000 (£153,000/€193,000) donation by the Turkish Government to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is proof of the strong "zero tolerance" policy regarding doping in the country, said Turkish Olympic Committee President Uğur Erdener.

Turkey's move was praised by WADA President Sir Craig Reedie who remarked Turkey has firmly nailed its colours to the anti-doping mast by donating such a significant amount of money to innovative research. The WADA chief added this is a positive contribution to the clean sport movement, and sends the right message to clean athletes, right across the world and also remarked this signal sent by the Turkish Government is a further boost to Governments' aim to match the IOC's \$10 million (£6 million/€8 million).

Sir Reedie also said research is crucial to all that the anti-doping community does, and his personal thanks go to Akif Çağatay Kılıç, the Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey, and to Professor Dr Uğur Erdener, for their country's commitment. Reedie also said he looks forward to further engaging Governments over the coming weeks so that we can continue to advance the anti-doping cause.

In the recent years, Turkey has been struggling to win the fight against doping with 31 of its athletes receiving suspensions by the Turkish Athletics Federation in the summer of 2013 alone. Country's top athletes including [Asli Cakir Alptekin](#) and Nevin Yanit were suspended for doping violations though Alptekin was later cleared. Abnormal blood values were found in the biological profile of the athlete. One of Turkey's most decorated athletes, Alptekin was later cleared of doping violations by the [Turkish Athletics Federation](#).

International Association of Athletics Federations President Lamine Diack had remarked that Turkey needs to "clean their house", while the issue an issue in defeat of Istanbul to Tokyo in the race to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Erdener, also the President of World Archery, now says the announcement underlines the huge progress that has been made. He remarked his Minister immediately arranged an important money transfer, directly to WADA, showing our strong support for a zero tolerance policy and added now the National Olympic Committee and Ministry of Youth and Sport has a strong zero-tolerance policy in Turkey. Speaking ahead of the final day of the Archery World Cup Finals here on the shores of Lake Geneva, Erdener said we as a result of this have had very strong improvements in our anti-doping policies, particularly in the last two years, and now we have very limited cases in Turkey. Erdener went on to add that our Government immediately contributed important money for the new anti-doping fund, for supporting anti-doping projects, and this is a further important signal.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach called on international governments last December to match the pledge of IOC to invest \$10 million (£6 million/€8

million) to fund innovative, athlete-centered [anti-doping research](#), including new techniques to detect banned substances.

Recently, China announced a contribution of \$1 million (£610,000/€770,000) while it was indicated by the United States that it will make \$6 million (£3.5 million/€4.5 million) available over the next three years, via the Partnership for Clean Competition.