

## **Cookson Promises Transparency Over Doping Report**

UCI President Brian Cookson has promised that the [Cycling Independent Reform Commission](#) will be transparent with its report on doping within the sport.

Speaking at the world tracking cycling championships in Paris, Cookson remarked he thinks there will be many uncomfortable readings in the report and we all should be ready for them. The Briton remarked the UCI will not engage itself in FIFA-style wrangling over publication of the CIRC report into allegations that the UCI was a party to wrongdoings. In the past, [Lance Armstrong](#) has accused the UCI and its earlier presidents, Hein Verbruggen and Pat McQuaid, of covering up positive doping tests.

The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) announced on January 8th 2014 about the creation of the Cycling Independent Reform Commission (CIRC). The independent body is expected to put its findings about doping practices within the sport to ensure that the sport is operated smoothly and without any allegations.

The independent commission was established after Lance Armstrong, one of the most decorated cyclists of all time, was banned for life and stripped of his seven consecutive Tour de France titles that he won from 1998 to 2005. The USADA report was based on testimonies from many former teammates of Armstrong, including George Hincapie and Tyler Hamilton. It concluded that the cyclist engaged in "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen." The former American professional road racing cyclist later admitted in January 2013 that he made use of banned drugs and methods like [Testosterone](#), EPO, blood transfusions, and cortisone to stay ahead of peers.

The Cycling Independent Reform Commission was trusted with the task of investigating whether the world governing body of cycling was complicit in wrongdoing. The CIRC is expected to report its findings to the cycling's governing body by end of this month and the UCI will then publish the document in full, according to Brian Cookson.

In May last year, Lance Armstrong met with the CIRC in a meeting that lasted for seven hours. It is believed that Armstrong has been critical of the first 18 months of presidency

of Cookson, who took over reins of the cycling's body from Pat McQuaid in September 2013. Brian Cookson remarked that he is not worried about what Armstrong might or might not say about him as he is entitled to his opinion. The UCI chief added Armstrong always has an agenda.

Armstrong's attorney Elliot Peters revealed that the meeting between his client and the CIRC was a very good meeting. Peters also revealed at that time that if you made a list of all the questions people would want to ask about Lance and his activities in cycling and everything else, those were the questions that were asked and answered. Peters also remarked that the life ban imposed on Lance Armstrong is unfairly harsh and should be reduced. The attorney also said his client is talking in the spirit of not trying to benefit by getting somebody else in trouble, but in the spirit of let us tell the truth.