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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Member State engagement with the world anti-doping code - <i>Information from the Netherlands delegation</i>

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Netherlands delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 13-14 May 2024.

## **Member State engagement with the world anti-doping code**

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has started a process to update the World Anti-Doping Code, the document that codifies doping rules for all (Olympic) sports. There will be several rounds for stakeholder input, with a new Code to be agreed on in December 2025, and to enter into force in January 2027. Because governments are likely to also have a role in implementing the new Code, it is important that we are actively engaged in the update process. In mid-May 2024, WADA expects to publish draft texts for the new Code, starting a new stakeholder engagement phase.

As the fight against doping becomes more complicated, it touches on policy areas such as privacy, data protection and fundamental rights. These are areas in which governments have responsibilities. Through the International Convention Against Doping in Sport (housed at UNESCO), governments are committed to fighting doping in sport. The Netherlands calls on Member States to engage with these processes.

The Netherlands believes that the system can be strengthened. We want to do this by better positioning roles and responsibilities regarding doping in the Code and at WADA than is currently the case. And by improving the monitoring of compliance with the UNESCO Convention. The Code, and the update process, is an important link in this. We call on Member States to be aware that there may be things in the Code that may not be the same in their national legal system, which can cause implementation problems. This may result in threats of sanctions against national anti-doping organisations and national sports authorities.