



PRIME MINISTER OF POLAND

Warsaw, 22 February 2017

Dear Mr Secretary,

I would like to inform you that the Government of Poland, headed by me, fully supports the candidacy of the Minister of Sport and Tourism Mr Witold Bańka as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The fight against doping in sport is one of the priorities of the Polish Government. Therefore, immediately after taking the office Minister Bańka decided to strengthen and reorganize the anti-doping system in our country. He initiated the drafting of the bill on the fight against doping in sport, the first piece of legislation to comprehensively and innovatively regulate all matters relating to combating doping in sport in Poland. The bill was approved by the Polish Government on 20 December 2016 and forwarded to the Parliament for legislative action. One of the objectives of the bill is to establish a strong, credible and internationally recognized Polish Anti-Doping Agency. This, as well as the other plans of Minister Bańka regarding the fight against doping, have my full trust and support.

Over the period of our cooperation Minister Bańka has demonstrated exceptional reliability and professionalism, as well as management skills and knowledge of the government administration processes. As the Minister of Sport and Tourism, Mr Bańka also encourages greater understanding between the public administration and non-governmental organizations operating in the field of sport, with the aim of solving the sector's problems such as corruption or doping.

Minister Bańka is also engaged in international cooperation in the field of sport. While holding his office, he has paid numerous visits to ministers responsible for sport, including in the UK and Germany. He also actively participated in the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport, held in Budapest in November 2016. He has been successful in strengthening the cooperation in the fight against doping in sport with countries such as Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

I wish to confirm that Minister Bańka has the knowledge and qualifications necessary to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). As a former athlete, Minister Bańka adheres to ethical values upon which sport is

based, including the integrity of sports competition. This ensures that in performing his duties as a member of the Committee, he will demonstrate exceptional commitment.

Yours sincerely,

(-) Beata Szydło

**Mr Thorbjorn Jagland
Secretary General
of the Council of Europe**