

## STATEMENTS OF MINISTER WITOLD BAŃKA ON DOPING IN SPORT

The doping scandal with the Zieliński brothers has been truly shameful. There is no place for doping in sport. People who use doping cheat, and therefore they should be eliminated from sport. The whole sports world should be united in the fight against doping. It is not a problem of only a few countries, it is a problem for every country and its sport.

*Minister Witold Bańka for TVN24 television channel  
(14 August 2016)*

Poles expect the authorities to ensure that Polish sport is transparent, fair and is a source of pride for the country. Athletes expect decent training conditions and want to represent the red and white flag in fair sports competitions. Sport must be transparent. The use of doping is against fair play; such behaviour should be condemned and there is no doubt about it. The idea of sport is based on the integrity of competitions, and doping is a silent killer of this integrity. There is no place and no acceptance for doping in Poland, and thus decisions relating to doping users are going to be strict and unchangeable. We cannot allow cheats such as doping users to represent our country.

*Minister Witold Bańka at the press briefing on the bill on the fight against doping in sport  
(10 October 2016)*

Mr Speaker and Members of the House: on behalf of the government of Prime Minister Beata Szydło, the government of the Law and Justice party, I hereby table the bill on the fight against doping in sport. It is the first document to comprehensively regulate all matters relating to combating doping which is one of the biggest pathologies in sport. This is a breakthrough bill, as it provides for modern systemic solutions whose implementation will place Poland among the leaders in the fight against doping. The bill is focused on the integrity and fairness in sport, an important area of the life of society.

As a former athlete, I have a highly personal approach to this bill. I know how important in sport is the feeling when you stand in the starting blocks to compete with other athletes on an equal basis, with the same chance to win, with the confidence that your chance will not be taken away by anyone in an unfair way. All athletes deserve such confidence when competing in sport, and all of us gathered here should make sure this right is given to them.

As the minister responsible for sport in the government formed by Law and Justice, I have always been clear about my attitude towards doping. Today, speaking from the rostrum in the Parliament I repeat: everyone who wins in sport on doping is a cheat and a loser. His or her name is brought into disrepute as such a person has no respect for other athletes, other sportspersons, and undermines the ideals on which sport has been based for centuries.

*Minister Witold Bańka at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Sejm  
(9 February 2017)*

I am against doping in sport. Persons who use doping are cheats, and cheats should be removed from sport.

*Minister Witold Bańka for Republika television channel  
(29 July 2016)*

Our role as sport people is to fight against doping. Our objective is to maximize the effects of the fight against it.

*Minister Witold Bańka for Rzeczpospolita newspaper  
(18 August 2016)*

(...) some of them have turned out to be cheats. We are determined to eliminate such athletes from sport. That is why the Council of Ministers has approved the bill on the fight against doping in sport. We want to effectively fight against doping, and we will not sweep the problem under the carpet.

*Minister Witold Bańka for weszlo.com Internet portal  
(28 January 2017)*

There is no place, there is zero tolerance for doping in Poland. Thus, decisions relating to doping users are going to be strict and unchangeable. We cannot allow cheats such as doping users to represent the colours of the Polish flag. The idea of the Olympic movement is the idea of clean sport, of fair play. The greatest honour for an athlete at the Olympic Games is to represent the colours of Poland and to wear the country's emblem, the eagle on the chest. If someone takes doping, he or she damages the Olympic ideals.

*Minister Witold Bańka during the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro  
(11 August 2016)*