

Country: France

Committee: UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

Agenda Item: The usage of appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) and sports: their interconnection

France, or the 5th French Republic, is an intercontinental country spanning 643,801 km2 and twelve time zones, consequently making country with the highest amount of time zones inside its borders. Majority of the country’s landmass resides within Western Europe, where the majority of the population resides, often addressed as Metropolitan France. Additionally, France has territories situated in South America, represented as French Guiana and several islands and island clusters situated in Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. It is governed by a unitary semi-presidential republic, based in Paris, which also serves as the cultural and economical hub of the country and many Francophone countries, or former colonies of France.

Economically, France is a leading force throughout the world as its world’s seven largest economy by nominal GDP and a global tourist destination with its abundance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, attracting about 89 million visitors every year. Furthermore, France is a globally recognised power, serving as one of the five permanent members of UN Security Council, enclose nuclear weapons in its arsenal and was one of the founding members of European Union, NATO, World Trade Organisation and La Francophonie.

France, enjoying its position as a global super power throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, is not a stranger on international sport organisations, in fact hosting La Tour De France, a prominent cycling organisation, beginning in the 19th century, and many others. Thus, France’s run-in with APEDs is considerably earlier from other countries, although still debated about the validity, having the first fatality from drug overdose in sport organisations in history, when, allegedly, English cyclist Arthur Linton overdose on ‘‘tri-methyl” (probably consisting solely or in a mixture from caffeine and ether) on a 600 km race from Paris to Bordeaux in 1886.

Considering the prominence of international sports in France, the country has played and is still actively playing an antecedent role in the struggle to banish the APEDs in the international sports since the end of the 20th century and subsequent emergence of the new millennia, revealed by its consequential role in establishment of WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) and still contributes a significant portion of its budget, funding $596,589 in the organisation’s founding, in 2002 through European Council. Additionally, France has lead the attempts within European Union and its subordinate bodies in the issue of the fight for APEDs in international sports.

Moreover, independent from the attempts within European Union and establishment of WADA, France has signed a series of bilateral treaties in the topic of sports, which always included a section on fight against usage of APEDs, which consists of agreements with: Burkina Faso (4 February1986), Romania (19 April 1991), Czech Republic (12 July 1993), Slovak Republic (1 November 1993), Ukraine (3 May 1994), Poland (1 July 1994), Bulgaria (21 November 1994), Russia (24 July 1994), Republic of Belarus (14 December 1995), Australia (11 March 1995), Qatar (8 July 1996),and South Africa (26 June 1998).