

TRANSLATION

Brussels, march 7 2017

PRESS RELEASE

With this press release the BOIC and former BR-holder marathon Ria Van Landeghem, wish to make a public joint statement on the preventive dopingtest, organised by the BOIC on September 16th 1988, one day before the start of the Olympic Games in Seoul.

The A and B samples of Ria Van Landeghem were declared positive after the analysis by the head of the doping laboratory in Seoul, causing Ria Van Landeghem to be excluded from participating in the Olympic marathon. Ria Van Landeghem has always contested these results.

In December 1988 Ria Van Landeghem was acquitted by the appeal committee of the Flemish Athletics Federation (VAL) due to procedural errors, namely the violation of the right of defense. In spring 1989 the acquittal was confirmed by the IAAF.

Despite the acquittal, the BOIC banned Ria Van Landeghem for two years from the selection lists of the BOIC, despite her place in the top 10 in the world. This suspension should be classified as unjustified given the acquittal by the VAL and the IAAF. The BOIC wishes to apologise for this to Ria Van Landeghem.

Ria Van Landeghem has always remained persistent in her innocence.

Both Ria Van Landeghem as the BOIC submitted independently from each other the dossier to a number of renowned experts, including Prof. Dr. Van Eenoo. Based on the available files and the current state of science they come to the conclusion that the acquittal of Ria Van Landeghem by the VAL was founded, not just because of procedural errors.

The experts declare that the executed doping analysis did not meet a minimum number of quality guarantees that were well established in 1988 in the anti-doping laboratories and decide that the sample should never have been declared positive.

- There were no results of blanco control samples available for both the A and the B sample, necessary in order to rule out contamination of the machine.
- There were no calculations made of the peak areas of the respective ions for the B sample, necessary for the determination of the presence of a banned substance.
- There was no result of a positive B sample available.
- The B sample does not correspond to the A sample, required to decide on a positive doping test, as it concerns one and the same urine sample.

Based on the analysis results the head of the dopinglab in Seoul should never have declared Ria Van Landeghem positive.

The BOIC confirms that because of the above reasons, Ria Van Landeghem should not have been excluded from the Olympic Games in Seoul '88.