

AWARD in case 108651

delivered by

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ROWING FEDERATION (FISA)**

sitting in the following composition:

President: Denis **Oswald (FISA President)**
Members: Anita **DeFrantz**
Michael **Williams**
Mike **Sweeney**
Tricia **Smith**
Denis **Masseglia**

In the case

Roumiana NEYKOVA

In Seville, Spain, on 14 September, 2002

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Matt Smith did not attend the deliberations of the Executive Committee as he was part of the Commission of Inquiry.

The FISA Executive Committee wished to make a decision before the beginning of the World Rowing Championships on 15th September 2002. Therefore, it conducted a Hearing on 14th September in Seville before the Commission of Inquiry, which had met on 13th September, had produced a written report. For this reason, Dr Lacoste and Mr Smith attended the first part of the Hearing and presented orally the report of the Commission of Inquiry. Both the Bulgarian delegation and the members of the Executive Committee had the opportunity to ask Dr Lacoste and Mr Smith questions.

The Bulgarian delegation agreed with the facts presented in the report.

Dr Lacoste and Mr Smith left the room.

BULGARIAN POSITION

The Bulgarian delegation presented their defence insisting on the fact they had no intention to cheat but admitting that it was an administrative mistake not to have notified FISA of the administration of Milgamma. They left the room and the Executive Committee started its deliberations.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lidocaine is a local anaesthetic. The medical experts of the Commission of Inquiry indicated that an intra muscular injection should be treated as a local injection in that specific case. Therefore, the injection of Milgamma which was performed between 12th to 14th July on the athlete Neykova would have been permitted if proper notification had been given beforehand.

Lidocaine, in the quantity which is included in Milgamma, is not performance enhancing. It relieves pain, but only as much as necessary for the pain normally caused by the injection of the different vitamins contained in Milgamma.

The documents presented by the Bulgarian delegation clearly indicate that the athlete had pre existing back problems and that the treatment applied was consistent with these back problems. The amount of Lidocaine found in the sample provided by the athlete was consistent with the reported treatment. The injections performed between 12th and 14th July were medically justified. There was no intention to cheat and there was no unfair advantage for the Bulgarian athlete.

She did not list Milgamma on the doping control form. She listed instead "polyvitamin". This is not totally incorrect as Milgamma is a preparation of several vitamins. It is, however, inaccurate because it does not provide notification of the presence of Lidocaine. Mrs Neykova is therefore at fault but that element does not affect the legality of the injection of Milgamma.

The coach, Svilen Neykov was negligent in that he did not make sure that the proper notification was made before the injection was performed. He also did not check that the athlete was noting the correct name on the doping control form.

The doctor, Dr Angel Lozanov who performed the injection was also negligent because he did not ensure that the injection that he administered was properly notified to FISA.

The lidocaine which was in the body of the athlete at the time of the competition would have been permitted provided proper notification had

been given. Therefore, the Executive Committee does not find any basis for invalidation of the result of Roumiana Neykova in Lucerne.

FOR THESE REASONS

The FISA Executive Committee finds:

1. Roumiana Neykova is punished with a reprimand.
2. Her provisional suspension is lifted immediately.
3. Svilen Neykov, the coach, is punished with a reprimand.
4. Dr Angel Lozanov, the doctor, is punished with a reprimand.

Seville, 14th September 2002

THE FISA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Denis Oswald
President

Anita DeFrantz
Vice-President