



СОЮЗ БИАТЛОНИСТОВ РОССИИ
RUSSIAN BIATHLON UNION

January 31st, 2017
Moscow

Dear Mr. Besseberg,

For more than half a year of investigation of both parts of McLaren Report, different National Federations and individual athletes allowed themselves excessively emotional statements about Russia in general, and the Russian Biathlon Union in particular. Not wanting to escalate the situation and to further complicate the already complicated case for the IBU, as well as in the interest of a speedy resolution of the existing issues, we tried not to pay attention and withheld comments on the frequent groundless accusations from our colleagues.

On January 9th, 2017 the athlete from Team France Mr. Aristide Bègue wrote a post at his page on Twitter, where he commented 1st place in IBU Cup (Martell) of our athlete Alexander Loginov in both sprint on January 7th, 2017 and pursuit on January 8th, 2017:

<https://twitter.com/Aribeguu/status/818395432946696192>



Aristide Bègue
@Aribeguu



Follow

@martinfkde @EmilienJck @IBU_CUP
@IBU_WC @IBU_Junior
Se faire battre par meilleur, OUI!
Par un tricheur, NON!
EPO = 
#OnVeutUnSportPropre

Translation: "*Lose the strongest — YES, fraud — NO! EPO — stop*".

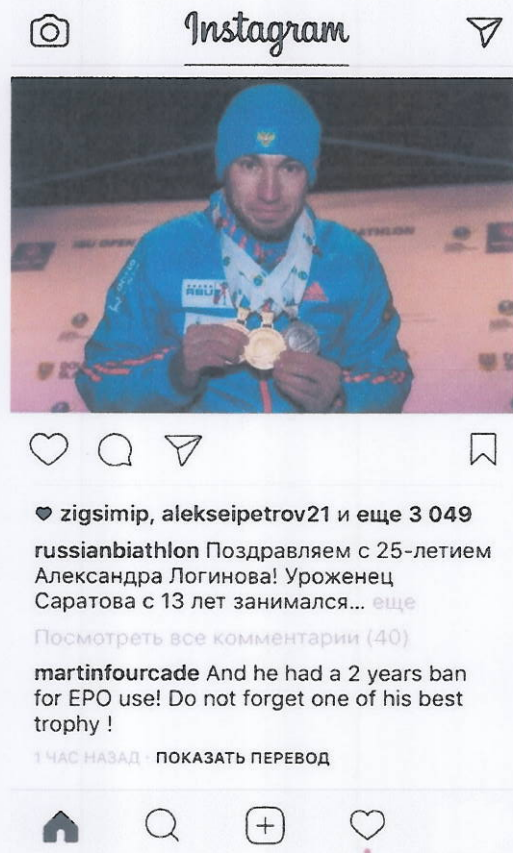
This statement does not make any sense and it is clearly aimed at moral coercion and harassment of the athlete. Alexander is a well-mannered man, so he refrained from any verbal retaliation.

I regret to say this, but the incident that happened today, leaves us no choice but to address to you this open letter.



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Today Alexander Loginov celebrates his 25th birthday. RBU congratulated him on this date on our official social media pages. Our congratulations in the Instagram were complimented by Mr. Martin Fourcade, who contributed from his official Instagram account, but did it in a very insulting, caddish and pungent way. Below is the screenshot of his "congratulations":



This public comment (or statement, if we may) caused a storm of protest among tens of thousands of people from all over the world, including, of course, the Russian fans, making Mr. Fourcade delete his comment.

Mr. Bessberg! Since Aristide Bègue and Martin Fourcade are members of the Team France, and since they compete at the international competitions held under the auspices of the IBU, we appeal to you as the President of this respected international organization to take the most drastic disciplinary actions against the athletes who allow themselves to publicly insult the honor and dignity of the athlete who legally returned to the competitions after three years of provisional suspension, and who is now clean under all applicable rules!



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We would never have addressed this letter to you, if Messrs. Fourcade and Bègue privately expressed their disrespect to Alexander Loginov, but we strongly believe that these sordid public acts are unacceptable. Such unsportsmanlike and inappropriate behavior seriously damages not only the reputation of the insulted athlete and the International Federation, but also the reputation of our sport - biathlon. We would also like express our concern about the fact that such attacks might continue, therefore we consider it necessary to put an end to this abuse immediately.

Sports should be free from prejudice, insults and hatred; the athletes should respect each other, show their best effort in competitions and be engaged in sports, but not in political propaganda.

We hope for your understanding and cooperation!

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours
Alexander Kravtsov

Alexander Kravtsov
President of the Russian Biathlon Union