



The Mayor of Berlin

Berliner Rathaus
10871 Berlin

Berlin, September 2006

Dear participants of Soccer Without Drugs Cup 2006,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Berlin, the venue of the Football World Cup. Once again, the German capital plays host to an international tournament. 18 teams from 6 countries have lined up and will be competing against each other to win the Soccer Without Drugs Cup.

It is not only the athletic performance that commands respect at this tournament. It deserves particular acknowledgement that the 220 players are people that were addicted to substances once, but have broken through the vicious circle of alcohol and drugs, not least with the help of sports. Let me congratulate all of you on this achievement right away! There is one thing we know already: This tournament has got only winners! No matter which team wins out, everybody joining the games has won already. You have kicked the bad habits of the past, you are in great form, and you are able to carry through such a demanding sports tournament. All this has met, and will certainly continue to meet with all the praise it deserves.

I hope the organizers of Tannenhof, as well as all sponsors and supporters will be able to shape this event as a clear signal that reaches out far beyond the sports turf.

This tournament is designed to encourage everybody to kick the bad habit of consuming alcohol and drugs. It is testimony to the belief that, despite all the difficulties, you must never give up. Right now, as individual athletes are bringing sports into discredit through doping, your tournament sends out an important message. Because it's not only about fairness here, which means that you stay clean as an athlete: You also demonstrate that life without addiction and alcohol is a better life, more worth living.

That's why I like the idea of setting up an integrated programme, combining sports games with an international youth forum, workshops and a seminar on the issue of „Football without Alcohol and Drugs – can it work?“ I am convinced the big question you have put in your seminar title will be answered with a resounding Yes!

I wish the Soccer Without Drugs Cup and its supporting programme great success. May the best team win! But most and foremost, I hope that you will carry to your home countries from Berlin the message of a good life, free of drugs, and full of inspiring experiences.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Klaus Wowereit', written in a cursive style.

Klaus Wowereit

The Mayor of Berlin