

To
Mr. Thomas Bach
IOC President - Lausanne
cabinet_president@olympic.org

To
Ms. Kristin Kloster Aasen
Chair of the Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games
Milano Cortina 2026.
kkaa@online.no

RE: Winter Olympic Games Milano-Cortina 2026: Bobsleigh Track of Cortina d'Ampezzo.

The Comitato Civico Cortina, a free and independent association of citizens of Cortina d'Ampezzo, have been monitoring the issues of the Olympics in Cortina, particularly the issue of the bobsleigh track. We have always been convinced that a new bobsleigh track is not sustainable in any way, and thus it is inappropriate to build one, as also stated by the IOC itself on several occasions.

Just recently, a new, smaller project for the rebuilding of the Sliding Center in Cortina appeared, led by the Milano-Cortina 2026 infrastructure company.

In relation to the procedure for the rebuilding of the bobsleigh track "Eugenio Monti" of Cortina d'Ampezzo, for the Olympics Milano-Cortina 2026

WE ASK

That the International Olympic Committee does not grant any extension to the homologation and holding of the test events following the construction of the bobsleigh track in Cortina d'Ampezzo, for obvious reasons of safety of the athletes and spectators. We ask that the terms of the Milan Cortina 2026 Olympic Dossier are respected.

As reported in the Dossier (1), the test events are essential to ensure the right implementation of all the safety measures for such a complex sport facility. In particular, the test events need to take place well in advance of the Olympic competitions, to allow for any design modifications and adjustments of the track.

These precautions are even more necessary for an infrastructure such the future track in Cortina, as it will be a new construction based on a project that has been largely revised on several occasions, and whose construction time is pushed to the limit (from the 40 months initially planned, to the hypothetical 21 months assumed in the new call for tenders of December 2023).

We would like to remind that these precautions are essential, and we attach the previous document of the Cesana bobsleigh track (Torino 2006), for which three curves had to be modified (2).

* * *

Alongside our request, we would like also to point out the following:

- The new project tendered in December 2023 has drastically downsized the structure, leaving the facility in its essentials and removing all those accessory works that would have mitigated the environmental impact (i.e., removing the covering and greening of the roof of the refrigeration plant, simplifying the track's cladding, not undergrounding parts of the track) or that would have ensured a minimal legacy for the town of Cortina (renouncing the rebuilding of the "Bob Bar", reducing parking areas, reducing the forecourts and support structures). An impoverished sport facility that will have anyway to be completed after the Olympic Games.

- The operating costs of the sports facility are not covered by any formal commitment of the public authorities or the private societies pushing for its construction. This puts the future of our community at risk, considering the loss of services and the many challenges that a mountain town such as Cortina is facing. The Mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo, Gianluca Lorenzi, stated at the last town council meeting, held on the 28th of December 2023: "The Cortina Municipality risks default. I do not sleep at night because of the commitments you have signed ..." (referring to former Mayor Gianpietro Ghedina).

Cortina d'Ampezzo, 31 dicembre 2023

SIGNED:

The president of Comitato Civico Cortina

Marina Menardi

And for reference:

To the Mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo:

Gianluca Lorenzi

To the President of Veneto Region:

Luca Zaia

To the President of the Foundation Milano-Cortina 2026:

Giovanni Malagò

Additional Information

(1)

(Extracted from the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic Dossier)

VISION AND GAMES CONCEPT

18. Olympic test events concept

Test events will be organised starting from three years prior to the Games. The venue design as well as the level of service and the overall conditions that will apply during the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be tested, **so that any modifications deemed necessary will be introduced before the Games.**

... the International Federations will be sent a request for the organisation of a major test event to be introduced in the international calendar of events.

The following principles will inspire test events organisation:

- Test events in outdoor venues will be organised, possibly starting from Winter Season 2022/2023 and mostly in the winter season before the Games (Dec. 2024-March 2025);
- Test events in indoor venues to be constructed or requiring significant renovation works will be held in the winter season before the Games (Dec. 2024-March 2025)

All the OCOG functions will be involved and will develop their concept of operations accordingly.

Test events will also be **the first opportunity to complete the 'Policies & Procedures' to be drafted in line with a comprehensive risk assessment exercise, and to measure the capacity of reaction of the main functions (including security, transport, logistics, arrivals & departures, technologies, accommodation, medical services, spectator services, media, crisis communication, protocol, look & feel, signage, Main Operations Centre, etc.).**

PLANNED FUTURE EVENTS FOR BOB, SKELETHON, & LUGE

BOB & SKELETHON: BMW World Cup 2024/2025 or BMW IBSF World Championships 2025 (February – March)

LUGE: World Cup 2024/2025 or FIL World Championships 2025 (Jan)

(2)

Cesana Pariol

In January 2005, the FIBT and FIL held their homologation events at the track. The FIBT had no issue when they ran their events during the weekend of 21–23 January 2005. The following week, the FIL ran their events, and had several crashes. Included in the crashes were Austria's Wolfgang Linger (broken ankle and calfbone), Brazil's Renato Mizoguchi (medically induced coma), and the U.S. Virgin Islands' Anne Abernathy (collarbone). During the summer of 2005, **discussions were held among TOROC (the organizer of the 2006 Games), FIBT President Robert H. Storey (Canada), and FIL President Josef Fendt (Germany) about refitting the track for safety reasons. An agreement was reached by all three, and turns 16 through 18 were modified as such.** The track was finally modified in late 2005 in time for homologation. Test runs done by Italy's Armin Zöggeler in late October 2005 led to the track being homologated on 31 October

2005 after it had been approved by former German national team coach Josef Lenz and FIL track commission chair Klaus Bonsack.

(source: wikipedia)