

The Honorable
Thomas Bach - IOC President
cabinet_president@olympic.org

cc
Giovanni Malagò - CONI President
presidente@coni.it

SUBJECT: Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics: bobsled track in Cortina d'Ampezzo and ski mountaineering

Dear Mr. Bach,

I am sending you a copy of the letter we sent on September 4, 2021 to Luca Zaia, president of the Veneto Region and cc'd to Vincenzo Novari, CEO of the Milano-Cortina 2026 Foundation and to Gianpietro Ghedina, Mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo, regarding the project to update the "Eugenio Monti" bobsled track and annexed structures.

The Comitato Civico Cortina polled the community to assess the level of acceptance for this major project. Letters and documents showing the results of this poll are included with this email. Here is a brief summary of our findings: 62.3% of the people polled said that they did not agree with the Veneto Region decision to spend 85 million euro to rebuild the bobsled track. One reason is the high cost of operating & maintaining the track and the low number of athletes, about 30, whom are practicing the sport in Italy. A telling number of poll respondents, 70%, is in favor of competing on an existing track in another location, which was a suggestion brought forth by the IOC.

On June 9, 2021 a packet of documents detailing the critical impact which the complete restoration & rehabilitation of the "Eugenio Monti" track would have on the environment & community was sent to Elisabetta Pellegrini, Infrastructure Director of the Veneto Region, Vincenzo Novari, CEO of Milano-Cortina 2026 and Gianpietro Ghedina, Mayor of Cortina. The environmental impacts & costs are exacerbated by the fact the bobsled track has been closed for 13 years. A copy of these documents is also included with this email.

We have found that almost unanimously all of the organizations involved in the project are exhibiting a total lack of transparency & not making any information available to the public. 85% of those polled said they were not included in any of the decision making nor informed about the projects progress. That is the reason why in July we published a summary of the bobsled track documents in a special edition of our paper "Voci di Cortina". The first 1,000 copies flew off the shelves, so we reprinted a second run to satisfy the avalanche of requests. In addition to the printed

Associazione Comitato Civico Cortina

Registrato all'Agenzia delle Entrate di Pieve di Cadore in data 31/07/2002 al n.1087 serie 3
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copies we had an exceptionally high number of hits on our website vocidicortina.it linked to the articles dealing with the issue.

In our letter to President Zaia last Saturday, we have suggested relocating the three disciplines connected to the bobsled track (bobsled, skeleton & luge) to an alternate location. In place of these events, we proposed that the ski mountaineering races take place in Cortina, as they are well suited to the existing terrain. This way Cortina will add a medal to the count, so as not to be outshined by Milan, and will put its energies to a sport that is already an integral part of our surroundings. If this new olympic event was located in Cortina, it would have almost zero impact on the environment and would be inexpensive to organize.

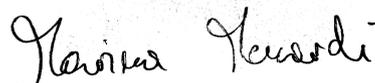
As of yet none of our certified mail has been acknowledged by the various organizations showing, once again, the lack of interest in involving the local community in the project from the creation of the initial bid-book to the last two years of work by the Milano-Cortina committee.

We are hopeful that the organizers will take our requests into consideration and that they will have a positive outcome, especially considering that the IOC has expressed serious doubts about the bobsled project.

Best regards,

Cortina d'Ampezzo 17, September 2021

dott.ssa Marina Menardi
Presidente Comitato Civico Cortina



info@vocidicortina.it

Comitato Civico Cortina is a cultural association that is free, independent and not attached to any political movement nor party; it wants to act as the link between the City Council and the community, giving ample importance to the problems arising in the life of the community and within the local administration. Its primary objective is to involve as many people as possible in the effort and to raise awareness on the actions of the city council, other organizations and groups

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