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International Olympic Committee  
Mr Jacques Rogge  
And members of the Executive Board  
Rue de Vidy 9  
CH - 1007 Lausanne

## **Olympic Games and the problems of transportation**

25.2.1011

Dear Mr Rogge and the members of the IOC Committee,

We are writing to you in connection with the applications to hold the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

We are sure that you are aware that in both the European regions which are bidding - Annecy Munich/Garmisch-Partenkirchen - there is growing opposition to the games being held there. Rather than some would have us believe, this opposition has widespread support among the people. When the applications documents are examined, it is clear that there are grave difficulties which, at best, undermine the aims of the Olympic Charter and at worst, turn them completely upside down.

The European Transport Initiative (ITE) - a European network of NGOs with 47 member organizations, many of which are based in the Alpine Region- would like to draw your attention to several critical points associated with the transport sector. For it is exactly this sector which creates challenges that unfortunately often have immense disadvantages for the local inhabitants and consequences for the environment, the climate and air pollution.

It is within the power of the IOC to advocate peace, bring people together and restore the original spirit of the Olympic Games. The selection criteria for those bidding to hold the games, the technical specifications and the resulting contracts are all defined by the IOC. It is the IOC, therefore, who holds the key!

### **Our demands are:**

- The IOC shall express its commitment to the Alpine Convention and its trade protocols, and act accordingly. The limited environmental capacity of mountainous areas (limited space, unstable slopes, the susceptibility of the ground to soil compaction, the particular propagation conditions there of noise and air pollutants) must be taken into full consideration.

- The selection criteria for the Olympic Winter Games shall be revised so that no additional construction or expansion of road infrastructure solely for the purpose of the Olympic Games is sanctioned.
- The IOC shall make the award of the hosting of the Olympic Games dependent on the successful candidate region's agreement to respect the emission levels allowed under the local clean air and noise abatement laws before, during and after the Games.
- The IOC shall make the award of the hosting of the Olympic Games dependent on the successful candidate region's agreement, especially in mountain areas, to a particular effort being made to reduce road traffic and for a shift to more sustainable transport modes.
- The IOC shall commit itself to carbon-neutral games: the choice of the successful candidate region is dependent on it being able to prove it has an exemplary regional climate policy already in place, with ambitious targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). In the short-term, while the games are taking place, the high emissions are offset by appropriate measures within the affected region. The games themselves must provide a good impetus for long-term, climate-friendly mobility options.
- Helicopter flights shall be restricted to rescue flights, limited monitoring by the police, and aerial photography for television broadcasts.
- The IOC shall make it a condition that a minimum of 70% of all journeys in connection with the Olympic games are made by ecological transportation. (The only exception to this is rescue traffic)
- The IOC and the entire "Olympic family" shall reduce their own vehicle fleet available during the games to a third of the current number.
- The IOC shall endorse the aim of short distribution circuits for the Games supplies. Regional products should be preferred, and regional producers should be involved in the catering etc.

The ethical challenge of the 21st Century is for the sustainable development of the games, and the Olympic Games and the IOC have to meet this challenge, but until now the IOC's rules of procedure have been found lacking. If the IOC wants people to back the Olympics, it must change its general regulations and demands, in order to be more in keeping with today's realities and stop acting as if resources were plentiful (financial or environmental). A more spartan event, based primarily on sport would undoubtedly create less popular opposition.

Until the necessary progress in the general regulations and procedure for the Olympic Games has been made, we are going to support the opposition to the Olympic Winter Games and we cannot agree to Olympic Games 2018 being held in the Alps.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Aschwanden, ITE president

Heike Agthe, Board ITE Germany

Annex: Detailed considerations on Olympic Winter Games and the problems of sustainable transportation