

Nolympia 2018

Nolympia / Ludwig Hartmann, Ismaninger Str. 9, D-81627 München

Munich, January 12th 2011

Concerns: The Application for the Olympic Winter Games Munich 2018 Letter to all Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We want to provide information to you, as a Member of the IOC, which we feel is important for you to consider as part of the application for the Winter Games 2018. We are concerned that since this information reflects the negative impact on Garmisch-Partenkirchen that it may not have been provided to the IOC members.

The area required for the Olympic Winter Games is much too big, especially for the venue location for the snow competitions in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the surrounding Loisach valley. On its own the necessary ca. 12.000 parking spaces would consume a large section of the landscape unrivaled in its beauty.

The land required for the Olympic snow competitions, the infrastructure and parking lots, is not available. In a written communication to the Bavarian state chancellery, 59 property owners in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and more landowners in the Loisach valley have adamantly expressed their total and complete disapproval of the utilization of their property for the Olympic Winter Games 2018. The attorney for the property owners, RA Seitz, has already communicated this position to the President of the IOC, Jacques Rogge, in a letter dated Dec. 23rd 2010.

The application process by the Application Association (Bid Committee) proceeded without any consultation with the affected population. The planners maintained and continue to think that their proposed use of the affected property is in the best interests of everyone to the exclusion of the owners. In addition, the search for a location of the "Nordic Center" (cross country and biathlon) has proved to be extremely difficult. Already in summer 2010 in Oberammergau the population and the landowners have disapproved the proposed construction of the Olympic biathlon and cross country stadia. Meanwhile designers propose the "Nordic Center" be at a fifth location which is at Schwaiganger. Again, this proposal meets strong resistance based on the fact that it would be a temporary development resulting in detrimental and irreplaceable loss of a unique ecological area of the German Alpine landscape. The resulting economical damages to this agrarian area would also be devastating to the local population.

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Garmisch-Partenkirchen is situated at a height of only ca.700 m above sea level, Schwaiganger even lower at a height of 600 m above sea level, and Munich at a height of 500 m above sea level. Climate change has already been clearly noticeable. Extremely elaborate and costly snowmaking equipment (with artificial reservoirs and cooling towers) are being proposed. For Schwaiganger, these facilities would have to be newly constructed on a purely temporary basis. The envisioned artificial snowmaking is neither ecologically nor economically worthwhile. At present it has often been too warm for artificial snowmaking. The results were clearly shown in both Vancouver and the Alps during the last winter.

You should be aware that all leading nature protection and environmental associations have resigned from the expert commission of the bid committee. Their resignations from this process were based on the observation that the application for Munich 2018 is not consistent, nor does it consider the concern for nature and environmental protection. These associations include: the Association for Nature Protection in Bavaria (Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.), the Association for the Protection of the Mountain World (Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt), Mountain Wilderness, the International Commission for Protection of the Alps CIPRA Germany, and the Governing Body of Nature Protecting Associations DNR (Deutscher Naturschutzring). The National Alliance of the Association for Nature Protection in Bavaria as well as the county groups in Garmisch-Partenkirchen ("Snow-Cluster") and Munich ("Ice-Cluster") have diligently fought against the application based on environmental reasons. The Association for Nature Protection in Bavaria alone has more than 174.000 members.

The proposed steps to address environmental issues as presented in the official application causes further frustration and displeasure of the environmental and nature associations. The 18 "Leading Projects" are unrealistic or baseless. "*Greenwashing*" is very high. The only project to be taken seriously, a biosphere reservation, was not earnestly pursued and ultimately deleted.

Contrary to the statements in the application papers (Bid Book and others) for "Munich 2018", the public transportation connections between the venue locations of Munich, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Schwaiganger and Schönau (Königssee) do not even remotely suffice for the Olympic Winter Games 2018. The expressway (Autobahn) does not lead up to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. For the now projected civil works for roads there is no potential for financing within the short time until 2018. Despite the lack of funding, any rushed construction of so many road projects within 6 to 7 years, one runs the risk of roads designed and laid out in haste to meet the IOC requirements and not the needs of the valley and its population. Of a more dire concern is whether these possible road construction projects can be finished for the Games. If not, the route to the main venue, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, would be an end-to-end construction site. A bad example is the bypass of Garmisch with the tunnel through the Kramer mountain, which should be ready for the Alpine Ski World Championship 2011. However, its realistic completion can only be expected by the end of this decade. In addition, legal actions against these road projects, as in the case of the bypass of Garmisch, could delay the construction projects for 2018.

There is considerable opposition in Munich. The proposed Olympic Village is to be built inside of a park of the Federal Armed Forces: More than 1.700 trees would have to be cut down solely for the Olympic Village, another ugly mark left by the Olympics. In addition the Munich citizens worry about traffic chaos because of the barred "Olympic Lanes".

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For the local communities, there is considerable concern over the lasting high costs and massive municipal and personal infringements for safety requirements. This would affect not just one community but four.

Furthermore, the IOC needs to consider the immense level of opposition to the proposed Games:

- * the clear „no“ vote of the landowners in Garmisch-Partenkirchen,
- * the pullout of practically all environmental associations from the expert commission of the bid committee,
- * the constantly falling values (results) for the acceptance of the Games in online-ballots (inquiries) (even in the ZDF-Sportstudio the opponents to the Games achieved 47 percent),
- * the refusal of the Games in a census (opinion survey) of the citizens in Oberammergau,
- * the no vote of the DIE GRÜNEN party at the federal delegatee conference, the party of DIE GRÜNEN in the parliament of Bavaria, and the party base of DIE GRÜNEN in Munich,
- * the no vote of other parties like ÖDP and Die Linke,
- * the no vote of the Junge Union in Garmisch-Partenkirchen,
- * letters of opposition from potentially affected landowners, etc.

Since the Winter Games will seriously adversely affect so many people in such a small area, it is essential that you as a member of the IOC realize the undesirability of the application for the Winter Games "Munich 2018" in Munich, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Schönau at the Königssee.

We strongly recommend that you vote "no" for the Winter Games in Munich 2018.

Sincerely

Yours

Ludwig Hartmann

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