

TICOMBO FILES ANTITRUST COMPLAINT AGAINST THE IOC AND ITS ORGANISING COMMITTEES BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO PROMOTE AFFORDABLE TICKETS FOR CONSUMERS

- Ticombo strongly supports the need for transparency, fairness and competition in the secondary ticketing market.
- Ticombo's complaint argues the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) ticketing rules eliminate competition, inflate prices and limits consumer access, which is against EU competition law.
- This complaint highlights the harm the IOC's controls can cause customers, restricting the ability to resell tickets freely or find more affordable options on independent platforms like Ticombo's.
- Ticombo is calling on regulators to intervene and safeguard consumers from inflated prices and restrictive conditions that limit their ability to resell tickets fairly.

Ticombo, a European ticketing marketplace, has lodged an antitrust complaint before the European Commission (EC) against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its Organising Committees, alleging an abuse of dominant market position through restrictive ticket resale policies. These policies, Ticombo argues, eliminate competition, inflate prices and limit consumer access to tickets, particularly for higher-priced events faced with low demand.

According to Ticombo, the IOC has granted itself an exclusive monopoly over the resale of tickets for major sporting events, including the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the upcoming Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. By restricting independent resale platforms, the IOC not only limits consumer choice but also undermines the natural balance of the market. Fans who can no longer attend an event are forced to use the IOC's exclusive resale platform, where strict conditions force tickets to be resold at face value plus a platform fee, even when demand is low. This, Ticombo contends, distorts prices, denies fans affordable access to events and ensures that the IOC's ticket inventory is always cheaper than tickets resold between consumers.

Ticombo maintains these restrictions violate EU competition law, particularly Articles 101 and 102 TFEU, by unfairly excluding alternative resale platforms while granting the IOC full control over pricing and resale conditions. The complaint highlights how this market control not only suppresses competition but also directly harms consumers, who are denied the ability to resell tickets freely or access more affordable options on independent platforms.

By allowing ticket sales below face value, Ticombo provides consumers with a fair and competitive alternative, ensuring greater accessibility to cultural and sporting events at more affordable prices. Despite the IOC's prohibitive resale rules, Ticombo facilitated substantial savings for fans attending the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Buyers on the platform (ticombo.fr) were able to save over €2,200,000 due to sellers offering tickets below face value. A total of 28,834 tickets were listed at reduced prices, creating the

potential for further savings exceeding €900,000. These figures highlight how an open and competitive resale market directly benefits consumers by offering them more and affordable options that the IOC's restrictive policies seek to prevent.

Ticombo is calling on regulators to intervene and safeguard consumers from inflated prices and restrictive conditions that limit their ability to resell tickets fairly. With future Olympic events, including the Milano-Cortina 2026 and Los Angeles 2028 Games, at stake, urgent action is needed to uphold competition law and consumer rights in the European ticketing sector.

This is not the first time Ticombo has challenged restrictive ticketing practices for consumers. In May 2024, Ticombo filed a similar complaint against UEFA before the European Commission following the Euro 2024, alleging UEFA enforces a resale monopoly by imposing restrictive terms that harm consumers and exclude independent, secure platforms. As put forward by Ticombo, these practices harm consumers by preventing them from freely reselling or purchasing tickets at fair market prices. UEFA's policies prohibit resale below face value, even when demand is low, effectively inflating prices and limiting access to affordable tickets.

Ticombo is represented by the Dupont-Hissel law firm, known for its involvement in major EU sports law cases, including the landmark Bosman and European Super League cases. Ticombo does not discard the possibility of further legal action in different jurisdictions.

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Notes to editors

About Ticombo GmbH

Ticombo is a European online ticket resale platform that offers customers access to cultural and sporting events, created in 2016. The company operates a marketplace where individuals, resellers, and organisers can sell or resell tickets to live events. Their mission is to foster a **fair, transparent, and consumer-friendly** ticketing ecosystem.

Ticombo is one of the first transparent resale platforms and has a **rigorous policy to combat platform abuses**: the use of bots is prohibited, prices and ticket origins are verified and monitored, and transaction amounts are retained until 5 days after the event. In 2017, the business received the prestigious Seal of Excellence from the European Commission and was recognised as a high-quality project by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program.

Due to commitment to customer satisfaction, Ticombo has achieved a score of **4.6 out of 5 on Trustpilot**, based on over 2,200 customer reviews.

Ticombo does not own, resell, or hold any rights over the tickets listed on its platform and only intervenes in transactions to apply its TicProtect policy.

For more information about Ticombo, please visit <https://www.ticombo.com/en>

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