

**Question for written answer E-001239/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sabrina Pignedoli (NI), Maria Angela Danzi (NI), Tiziana Beghin (NI), Mario Furore (NI)

Subject: Bobsleigh track for the Winter Olympics in Cortina

In 2019, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the 2026 Winter Olympics to Milan and Cortina. The bid file stated that the Olympics would be funded primarily using private capital and, placing sustainability centre stage, make use of existing structures. Over the past few days, construction of the bobsleigh track – a brand new facility – has got under way in Cortina.

Taking up the entire ridge of one of the most beautiful mountains in the Alps, the track is being built in breach of many EU rules.

Plans were not submitted for an assessment pursuant to Directive 2011/92/EU, on the grounds that bobsleigh tracks are not listed in the annexes to the directive. What is more, a forest of larch trees of over 20 000 m² was felled without a single environmental assessment, despite deforestation being among the activities listed in Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU.

Lastly, the overall plan for the Olympics works, approved by Prime Ministerial Decree of 8 September 2023, was not submitted for the environmental assessment of plans and programmes provided for in Directive 2001/42/EC, which is needed, inter alia, for the purpose of determining the cumulative effects.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it not think it ought to step in on this abominable project?
2. Will it ask Italy for clarification?

Submitted:24.4.2024