

**LET'S SAY NO:**

**TO THE NEW BOBSLEIGH TRACK OF CORTINA D'AMPEZZO**

**TO MORE CONCRETE IN THE DOLOMITES**

**TO THE WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY**

**LET'S SAY YES:**

**TO PROTECTING THE DOLOMITES AND**

**TO TRUE SUSTAINABLE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES IN 2026**

To the International Olympic Committee, to the CONI, and to Milano-Cortina 2026 foundation, which will organize the winter Olympic games in 2026, we ask to keep the commitment to realize the Olympics of sustainability with zero land consumption. **We thus ask to move the bobsleigh, skeleton and luge competitions away from Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (where a new bobsleigh track needs to be built), to another already existing track in the alps, such as that of Innsbruck, in Austria.**

Recently, the Italian government has made a **new law** that in practice will allow to **build the new bobsleigh track** of Cortina d'Ampezzo while **bypassing all possible environmental objections**. With this law, the new bobsleigh track is thus considered a **priority infrastructure** by the Italian government.

The estimated cost to re-build the track is 61 million of euros and will be covered by Veneto region, Cortina d'Ampezzo town, the province of Belluno, and by further state financial resources; in other words, **public money**. A shameful waste of money, given that those sports counts in Italy **34 athletes only**. Moreover, the yearly costs of the track maintenance are estimated to be around 400.000 euros. **All this money could be spent on more urgent problems that afflict mountain habitants** (e.g., lack of hospitals).

It is to note that Cortina d'Ampezzo has already an old bobsleigh track "Eugenio Monti" that has been closed since 2008 because of **serious economical loss**. There is **no guarantee** that the same won't happen in the future.

Veneto Region promises that the track can be renovated without new land consumption. However, this is unlikely, because **new spaces are needed** for a modern, safe, well-equipped and accessible track for athletes, technicians, journalists, and spectators. In fact, picture 1 clearly shows how the old track is surrounded by trees and houses. The entire upper part of the track is immersed in a wooded area where tall trees closely surround the track on both sides, while from the middle to the end, the track is placed in a context of widespread urbanization, including housing, roads, and other sports facilities. Moreover, the actual location does not allow safety spaces and areas for ambulances and helicopters, and new access roads to the departure and arrival areas, a new finish area, new areas for the

grandstands and television facilities would have to be built. **This would result in a large number of trees being cut down**, in a historical period where we are losing way too many forests, either locally (see Vaia storm in 2018) and globally (see Siberia, South America, etc.).

However, **an alternative exists: moving the bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton competitions to already existing and functioning tracks**, such as the one of Igls, close to Innsbruck (Austria), only 168 km from Cortina, as also suggested by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). IOC has in fact stated that we should **"make the Games completely sustainable from an economic, environmental and social point of view"** recommending the use of existing facilities even outside the host city.

Can you imagine the impact that this new track would have to the beautiful landscapes of Cortina d'Ampezzo (**UNESCO world heritage**)? The natural heritage is what makes Cortina d'Ampezzo, like all Dolomites, a unique and breath-taking place. **Dolomites do not need more concrete. They instead need to be protected and preserved because of their fragile environment.**

#### **The promoting associations:**

Italia Nostra

Peraltrestrade Dolomiti

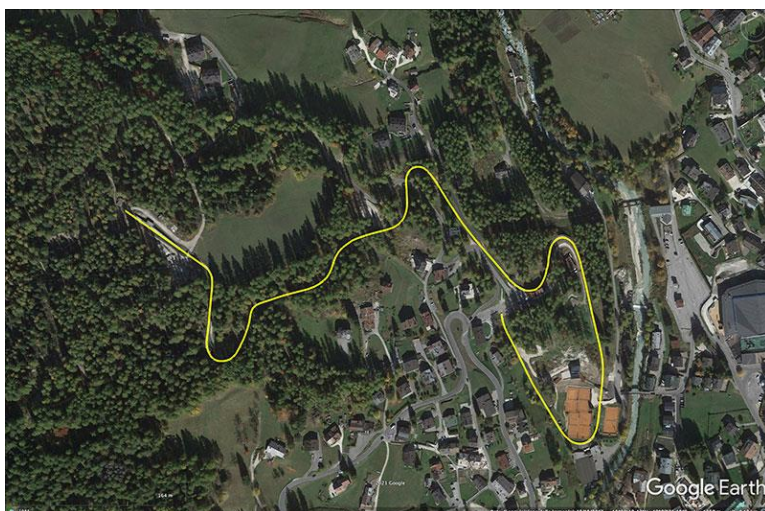
Pro Natura – Federazione nazionale

Mountain Wilderness Veneto

Comitato Civico di Cortina

CAI TAM Veneto – FVG

CAI - Regione del Veneto



*Cortina d'Ampezzo - Track layout*