



PRESS RELEASE

European Hoteliers Unite In Landmark Collective Action Against Booking.com

Brussels, 28 May 2025

National hotel associations from over 25 European countries are joining forces in a landmark pan-European collective action against Booking.com. This collective initiative is supported by HOTREC, the umbrella association representing the European hospitality sector.

This action follows the judgment by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on 19 September 2024, which found that the platform's parity clauses breached EU competition law.

In 2021, Booking.com unilaterally terminated corresponding compensation negotiations with the German Hotel Association (IHA) and started legal proceedings against several hundred German hotels before the Amsterdam District Court. An interim result of this (pending) process is the ruling of the European Court of Justice from 19 September 2024, which confirmed findings of the German Federal Cartel Office that the platform's parity clauses breached EU competition law. This has resulted in claims for damages for hotels throughout Europe, which are now to be asserted with the class action supported by HOTREC.

Over the past 20 years, these parity clauses placed European hotels at a significant competitive disadvantage. They suppressed price competition between Booking.com and other online platforms, leading to inflated commissions paid by hotels. In addition, the clauses restricted hotels from offering better prices or availability on their own websites, limiting direct sales and autonomy.

In short: Booking.com's use of anti-competitive parity clauses caused substantial financial harm to hotel businesses across Europe.

Under the general principles of European competition law, hotels across Europe are entitled to claim compensation from Booking.com for the financial losses suffered. Affected hotels may be eligible to recover a significant portion of commissions paid to Booking.com in any period from 2004 to 2024, plus interest.

Alexandros Vassilikos, President of HOTREC, stated: *"European hoteliers have long endured unfair conditions and inflated costs. Now is the time to stand together and seek redress. This collective action sends a strong message: abusive practices in the digital marketplace will not go unchallenged."*



The case will be led and handled by a team of highly experienced and recognised competition lawyers, litigators, and competition economists, who have already successfully achieved the ECJ's judgment of 19 September 2024.

All European hotels are invited and encouraged to register at www.mybookingclaim.com

The deadline for participation is 31 July 2025.

Background

The ECJ's 2024 judgment ([Case C-264/23](#)) confirmed that Booking.com's parity clauses, contractual terms that prevented hotels from offering lower prices or better availability through other channels, violated EU competition rules. These clauses led to inflated commission rates, suppressed direct bookings, and distorted online market competition.

The legal claim is being coordinated by the Stichting Hotel Claims Alliance and will be brought before the courts in the Netherlands, enabling a unified and efficient approach to enforcement across Europe.

The action is supported by national hotel associations from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland.

Contact

Jasper Dober

Media & Communications Manager, HOTREC

jasper.dober@hotrec.eu