

On 5 October 2015, the European Commission initiated formal antitrust proceedings against the International Skating Union for a suspected breach of EU rules prohibiting anti-competitive agreements between two or more undertakings (Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, "TFEU", and Article 53 of the EEA Agreement), and/or abuse of market dominance (Article 102 TFEU and Article 54 of the EEA Agreement). The initiation of proceedings is based on Article 2(1) of Commission Regulation No 773/2004.

The Commission intends to investigate alleged anti-competitive restrictions imposed by the International Skating Union on athletes and officials' economic activities and alleged foreclosure of competing alternative sport event organisers. In particular, the Commission will investigate the International Skating Union's rules that impose a lifetime ban on athletes and officials if they were to participate in events not organised or specifically approved by the International Skating Union.

The opening of proceedings means that the Commission will examine the case as a matter of priority. It does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation.