

Original: French

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Preliminary Decision
No. 03 - 2012**

CASE No. 3/2012

Sunday Times
Illegal sale of tickets for the Olympic Games

FACTS and PROCEDURE

1. On 15 June 2012, the British newspaper *Sunday Times* (ST) sent the IOC Communications Department a nine-page letter describing the content of an investigation carried out by two ST journalists over several months on the Olympic Games ticket sale system, claiming to have demonstrated the existence of an illegal market in tickets for the Games in London and Sochi. In all, 16 countries, 27 people and eight official ticket sale companies seem to be involved. The IOC President immediately referred the case to the Ethics Commission and asked the Commission to recommend possible provisional measures in the context of the Olympic Games as quickly as possible.
2. In its 17 June edition, the ST published a series of articles, including on the front page, with various photographs of the people involved. Video extracts were also posted on the ST web site.
3. On 18 June, the Ethics Commission Secretary asked the ST to send her all the evidence, particularly the sound and video recordings and transcripts. The Secretary confirmed the confidential use of the documents on 21 June 2012. The evidence was sent to the Commission only late in the afternoon on 29 June.

OPINION

4. The Ethics Commission has taken note of the initial evidence in the file. It notes also that the *Sunday Times* conducted an investigation over several months, using false names, false commercial companies, hidden cameras and recorded telephone conversations, and that numerous emails were exchanged. It has been able to establish the authenticity of the videos and telephone recordings.
5. The Ethics Commission observes that the conduct of certain Olympic parties could merit the application of point B.5 of the IOC Code of Ethics, which states that: "The Olympic parties shall use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. They must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the Olympic Movement."
6. The Commission notes that each individual situation merits a detailed analysis involving the hearing of all parties, particularly with regard to the existence of deliberate intent to breach the various rules which govern the sale of tickets for the Olympic Games. As a result, it has decided to continue its investigation into each

situation linked both to the National Olympic Committees and to the official ticket resellers.

7. The Commission notes that, with less than one week before the start of the IOC's activities in London, namely the opening of the Olympic Village on 16 July, the Executive Board meeting on 21 and 22 July, the Session from 24 to 26 July and the Olympic Games from 27 July to 12 August, it is not possible to respect the right to due process for the many people involved and that, as a result, it is not in a position to propose provisional measures to the Executive Board before its meeting in London.

RECOMMENDATION:

After deliberating in accordance with point A.5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Ethics Commission decides:

- that it is currently not in a position to recommend provisional measures to the Executive Board before its meeting in London;
- to continue its investigation, including by holding hearings.

Done in Lausanne, 11 July 2012

For the Chairman,
Pâquerette Girard Zappelli
Ethics Commission Secretary