



Collective Damage Action Against Booking.com

Subject: Legal Action by European Hotels to Claim Damages from Booking.com for Anti-Competitive Practices (2004–2024)

Background

Since 2004, Booking.com has imposed "wide parity clauses", preventing hotels from offering lower prices through other channels.

After 2015 regulatory pressure, Booking.com shifted to "narrow parity clauses", still restricting hotels from offering better deals on their own websites.

These practices were ruled illegal under EU competition law:

- Dec 2015: German Federal Cartel Office bans narrow parity clauses.
- May 2021: German Federal Supreme Court confirms violation.
- Sept 19, 2024: European Court of Justice (ECJ) rules that both wide and narrow parity clauses breach Articles 101/102 TFEU.
- Dec 2, 2024: Booking.com finally removes all parity clauses from terms (due to Digital Markets Act).

Key Damages to Hotels

- Artificially inflated commissions (est. overcharges of 30%)
- Loss of revenue from direct booking channels
- Hindered competition and market entry for alternative Online Travel Agencies (OTAs)

Legal Action Details

Platform: www.mybookingclaim.com

Action: Collective litigation coordinated by Stichting Hotel Claims Alliance in Amsterdam District Court, Netherlands

Process:

- Hotels assign claims to the Stichting (not direct plaintiffs)
- Attempt at amicable settlement first
- If needed, court proceedings likely to yield a decision within 2 years

Funding: Fully covered by a litigation funder (hotels bear no costs or risks).

Funder receives 2x costs + 30% of proceeds if successful.



Eligibility & Participation

Who: All European hotels listed on Booking.com between 2004 and 2024. This includes **Hotels in Northern Ireland who can claim between 2004 and 31st December 2024.**

Deadline to join: 31 July 2025

Registration: Must be done via www.mybookingclaim.com. Please ensure you add your location as Northern Ireland using the dropdown box GB-NIR.

Support: Initiative backed by HOTREC and national hotel associations including NIHF and IHF.

Action Required

- Visit www.mybookingclaim.com
- Register your hotel before 31 July 2025
- Cooperate with onboarding team to finalize participation