

lastminute.com wins again against Ryanair

The ultimate sentences in various jurisdictions confirm the absolute legitimacy of lm group to sell Ryanair flights

- *European Courts protect consumer rights to book Ryanair flights through third parties;*
- *The Court of Appeal of Canton Ticino (Switzerland) rejected the appeals from Ryanair and declared that lm group (lastminute.com, volagratis.com, rumbo.es, weg.de, bravofly.com) does not violate the law on unfair competition and importantly stated that Ryanair committed acts of unfair competition with the publications of 2008;*
- *The District Court of Hamburg (Germany) dismissed Ryanair's request for a preliminary injunction ruling that lm group does not violate unfair competition law (decision not final);*
- *The Court of Milan (Italy) ordered Ryanair to remove slanderous content against lm group.*

Chiasso, 21 December 2020 - As we approach the end of the most challenging year for the whole travel industry, we are working hard to manage the ever changing situation which includes air corridors slamming shut and travellers being hit by new restrictions. The lm group is pleased to announce some important milestones to add to its mosaic of legal victories against Ryanair that benefit all European travellers, by maintaining the possibility to reserve and compare Ryanair's flight and hotel packages through travel agency sites.

With great effort, lm group is encouraging regulatory authorities and consumers' associations all over Europe to examine the facts and become aware of the reiterated and multiple hidden or visible signs that the "European Number One airline", as it openly defines itself, is opposing any attempt of working fairly in a market dominated by its own misleading practices.

After two historical wins in 2019 (Court of Lugano and Supreme Court of Rome), Ryanair appealed the decision of the Court of Lugano who had confirmed lm group could lawfully continue to offer to all its customers the possibility to compare and reserve Ryanair tickets through its websites. Now, one year later, the Appeal Court of Canton Ticino rejected all points challenged by Ryanair, concluding that the lm group's way of working is lawful and that millions of consumers can continue looking to get the most extensive flight offering, both as a stand alone product or as part of a package holiday.

The same Court has declared the numerous discredit campaigns launched by Ryanair against the group since 2008 as vexatious and ruled they were deliberate acts of unfair competition. For this reason, lm group is now entitled to seek and recover the legal costs, and the appropriate publicity around this decision.

In addition, in December 2020, the District Court of Hamburg (Germany) ruled that lm group's offering of booking Ryanair flights through its websites (lastminute.de) does not violate the German competition law. Ryanair's allegations that lm group's practices were misleading were not successful, thus calling off Ryanair's request for a preliminary injunction (non-final). Although in Germany this may not be a conclusive step along the decision path, it has been a success in managing quickly and efficiently Ryanair's ungrounded allegations.

In September 2020, while the Court of Appeal of Milano (Italy) is still called to judge again if Ryanair's practices lead to an abuse of its dominant position leading to discriminatory behaviour, the Court of Milan, upholding a request of a preliminary injunction filed by lm group, prohibited Ryanair further visibility to the public of defamatory contents against lm group and other online travel agencies. The Court imposed on Ryanair a daily penalty for the non-compliance with this order. Those contents were published according to Ryanair's strategy to discredit all the players of fair competition in the market. But the judge issued a preliminary decision in line with the spirit of the Italian Supreme Court's decision in favour of lm group. The final decision on lm's application for a preliminary injunction should be issued in a whort while.

Additionally, the Italian Supreme Court had rejected Ryanair's grounds of appeal aimed at having a declaration of its right to refuse its consents to lm group to have access to its database and to intermediate booking procedures on behalf of their clients.

Marco Corradino CEO of lm group commented: "This clarifies that Ryanair's conduct is unlawful while confirming that our service encourages fair competition in the market and brings strong value to the customer by offering a mix of unique travel solutions from several providers - something Ryanair and traditional airline companies cannot offer alone. We are convinced that such decisions will not be the only ones testifying the disruptive and now needed change in the world of online travel services, both in the definition of relations with airlines and in relations with new online tourism operators. Only partnerships can grant consumers a reliable and comprehensive service which will be the 'travel winning formula' in this complex period. I want to thank our legal team for achieving these important successes by working hard and brilliantly over the years. They are the ones who deserve the credit for this historic moment for our industry.

Alessandra Reda, CCOO – legal and tax director - of lm group: "These decisions are a re-confirmation we expected and they serve as further evidence that Ryanair's aggressive practice is harmful and misleading to consumers. We are proud of these results but we are ready to carry on fighting on behalf of our customers. We are honoured to thank also our precious allies in these battles: the lawyer Stefano Codoni and his team at Walder Wyss Law Firm in Lugano, lawyers Julia Schönbohm, Bolko Ehlgen and Tillmann Schöller of Linklaters Law Firm in Frankfurt am Main, and lawyers Marco Consonni and Ludovico Anselmi of Orsingher Ortu Law Firm in Milan."

About [lm holding](#)

lm holding is among the worldwide leaders in the online travel industry and operates a portfolio of well-known brands such as [lastminute.com](#), [Volagratis](#), [Rumbo](#), [weg.de](#), [Bravofly](#), [Jetcost](#) and [Hotelscan](#). The Group's mission is to be the most relevant and inspiring travel company, committed to enriching the lives of travellers. Every month, the Group touches 60 million users across all its websites and mobile apps (in 17 languages and 40 countries) that search for and book their travel and leisure experiences with us. More than 1,200 people enjoy working with us and contribute to providing our audience with a comprehensive and inspiring offering of travel related products and services. lastminute.com N.V. is a publicly traded company listed under the ticker symbol LMN on SIX Swiss Exchange.

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