

## PRESS RELEASE

## Pobeda Airlines inaugurates the connection between Milan Bergamo Airport and Saint Petersburg

On Thursday 11 October, Pobeda Airlines, the Russian low-cost airline belonging to the Aeroflot group, inaugurated the new connection between Milan Bergamo Airport and Saint Petersburg, which will run three times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday). The flights are in addition to those already operated on a daily basis by Pobeda Airlines between Milan Bergamo Airport and Moscow Vnukovo, a route which was opened on 20 December 2015. Pobeda Airlines uses 189-seat Next-Generation Boeing 737-800s.

The inaugural flight to Saint Petersburg was celebrated with the traditional water salute performed by the Fire Brigade at Orio al Serio, together with a ceremony and the cutting of a celebratory cake in the presence of the attaché from the Consulate of the Russian Federation in Milan, Vadim Khmel, and the Director General of SACBO, Emilio Bellingardi.

"We are delighted to strengthen our collaboration with the company Pobeda Airlines, offering a further opportunity to connect Bergamo and Eastern Lombardy with the Russian Market - stated Emilio Bellingardi. - This new route will allow us to respond to the demands of Russian travellers, as well as Italians attracted by the extraordinary artistic and architectural patrimony of the Baltic city, considered the cultural capital of Russia".

The opening of the route was also marked by the declaration of Yaroslav Meshavkin, director of the Saint Petersburg Business Information Centre in Milan: "The launching of the new flight between Milan Bergamo Airport and Saint Petersburg demonstrates the reciprocal interest shared by one of the most European cities in Russia and the dynamic Lombardy economy. This was demonstrated by the active presence of the representatives of Milan Bergamo Airport at the opening of the Saint Petersburg Information Centre in Italy. Bergamo is a very interesting destination from both a tourist and cultural point of view, and also in terms of business and work. Remember also that the Saint Petersburg high school and the University of Bergamo are involved in a number of common projects. Furthermore, the new direct flight from Saint Petersburg to Bergamo allows quick and easy access to Milan, thanks to the frequent direct links by bus from the airport to the centre of the Lombardy capital".

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