

## **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BERGAMO HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY (ATS) AT MILAN BERGAMO AIRPORT**

*Bergamo, 6 May 2019* – On Monday 6 May, Milan Bergamo Airport played host to the meeting of the Board of Directors for the Bergamo Health Protection Agency (ATS), followed by a meeting with Emilio Bellingardi, Managing Director of SACBO, the company running the airport.

It was an opportunity to focus on the various aspects of close collaboration between the airport and the local area from a health point of view, in relation to a number of fields ranging from the **management of large-scale emergencies** to the daily health coverage of the **Airport First Aid Services** and the office of the **Border Maritime and Aviation Health Unit of the Ministry of Health (USMAF)**, up to the assessment and control of standard airport activities and their potential effects on health. The meeting also examined the LIFE Ip2020 - AZ E12 Project, which was introduced about two years ago by the State Forestry Corps through an initiative run by the Lombardy Region, which identified Milan Bergamo Airport (BGY) as the pilot airport for the information, education and prevention campaign regarding the preservation of biodiversity and the monitoring of the introduction of invasive species.

Specifically, in the 2012-2015 period, an Epidemiological Study was carried out in collaboration with the University of Milan based on the SERA protocol and made possible also thanks to the support of resources provided by SACBO, for the assessment of the potential side-effects of aeronautical activity. The results of the study, which were updated with later analysis and monitoring in the 2017-2018 period, did not uncover the presence or onset of health problems related to the airport's activities, but did highlight a direct relationship between annoyance and levels of exposure to noise. ATS was therefore able to define recommendations and mitigation measures aimed at containing and reducing these effects, which the airport management company has adopted and applied. Specifically, also thanks to the collaboration of the Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC) and ENAV, the Ministry of Commerce and Finance's Air Navigation Service Provider, night-time air traffic was managed in order to minimise flights over densely populated areas, and over the years, SACBO has carried out interventions for mitigation in houses and schools exposed to significant noise levels, substituting the existing windows with new ones offering high sound absorption and installing air conditioning systems. Specifically, SACBO has already intervened in 9 schools situated in the municipalities of Orio al Serio, Grassobbio and Bergamo, and in 300 private houses (in the municipalities of Grassobbio, Orio al Serio, Seriate and Bagnatica) and is intervening in another 240 (again in the same municipalities) for a total investment of approximately 10 million euros. The data regarding the study was updated by ATS in 2018.

Lastly, another important point was the activity in support of passengers with reduced mobility, conducted via the constant sharing of aspects of assistance to disabled people with the leading associations, which offers preferential access and guarantees special assistance services, as well as access to dedicated parking areas.

In this area, SACBO was the first airport management company to have introduced the protocol for assistance to passengers with autism, for which it was awarded by the Bergamo Association of Italian Industries (Confindustria) as the promoter of the best social project in 2017.

**As Massimo Giupponi, Managing Director of ATS Bergamo, stressed:** *"The airport is an important and long-standing organisation which characterises our area and is changing the face of our city, rendering it ever more international. The projects for collaboration in the socio-medical field are fundamental in guaranteeing the control of measures for the protection of the health of travellers, and their safety. Today's meeting provided a clear and detailed indication of how and to what extent we work to guarantee the utmost collaboration between the airport and the area from a socio-medical point of view".*

*"The presence in the airport of the Board of Directors of ATS Bergamo and the decision to hold a meeting, integrated with an in-depth study meeting on themes of common interest is useful in strengthening the spirit of sharing and collaboration which exists with the management company - **stated Emilio Bellingardi, Managing Director of SACBO** - All the activities of control carried out in the airport, and the studies conducted by ATS, characterised by the utmost transparency, allow the efficient verification of the levels of quality and safety required by current regulations".*

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