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SACBO PROGRAMMES THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYCLE PATHS CONNECTING THE AIRPORT

Milan Bergamo Airport is planning a network of cycle paths connecting the airport with main routes, including the Milan-Munich route. Despite the health emergency reducing passenger traffic, SACBO's plans continue, with the president Giovanni Sanga underlining that 2020 - a year which sees the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the airport management company - marks the commencement of expansion works for the intermodal transportation system, with the financing of the rail link between Bergamo airport and Milan, as well as an extension of the concept of multimodality, favouring the use of bicycles to travel to and from the airport and providing for storage, assistance and bike rental services to be set up alongside the future train station.

The 2030 Airport Development Programme provides for the construction of a series of cycle routes which, adding to those already existing, will constitute a cycle ring surrounding the airport, connecting to current main urban and supra-municipal paths.

"Bergamo Airport aims to become bike friendly - stated Giovanni Sanga - through the completion of the cycle ring surrounding the airport area, which will be expanded from 3.3 to 10 km, with an investment of 2 million euros, in addition to another million euros for the 3rd phase of the nature zone project, which provides for the construction of further sections connecting to residential zones and existing cycle routes in the surrounding area".

SACBO is focusing on the future, considering that two thirds of incoming tourists arrive from abroad, and that - when fully operational - the airport community sees the movement of 10 thousand workers every day. In 2019 in Italy, bicycle tourism generated almost 55 million stays (sources: FIAB; 2nd ISNART Legambiente report), the equivalent of 6.1% of those registered on a national level, of which 63% were international travellers, with particular reference to Germany, Austria (countries connected by the Milan-Munich route), France and Northern-European countries.

These passengers from Germany and other foreign countries travelling to Milan Bergamo Airport account for 25% of all foreign passengers, thus representing, for the airport, a potential and important market segment to be valorised, also in terms of sustainability. Overall, bicycle tourism has generated the spending of 4.7 billion euros, equal to 5.6% of the national total. The international component is very important, reaching almost 3 billion.

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