

A 20 YEAR “LOVE AFFAIR” BETWEEN RYANAIR AND MILAN BERGAMO AIRPORT

THE TWENTY-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RYANAIR, SACBO AND MILAN BERGAMO AIRPORT BEGAN ON 14 FEBRUARY 2002

“WE LOVE YOU BERGAMO”

14 February 2002 saw the beginning of a twenty-year collaboration between Ryanair, SACBO and Milan Bergamo Airport. The relationship was inaugurated with the incoming flight from Frankfurt Hahn, which hosted the wedding between Anja Schmitz and Thomas Pluta from the town of Andernach. Ryanair opened the route to and from London Stansted in April of the same year. In 2003, a year on from the inaugural flight, the CEO of Ryanair Michael O’Leary inaugurated the Irish airline’s base in Bergamo, with the positioning of 3 aircraft and the reaching of 1.3 million passengers in just twelve months.

Over the last 20 years, Ryanair has invested extensively in its presence and operations at Milan Bergamo, increasing both the number of aircraft based there and the number of international and domestic routes, strengthening the role of Bergamo as Ryanair’s main Italian base. From the 34 million passengers transported to and from Milan Bergamo Airport in the first decade of activity, at the end of 2019 Ryanair reached a total of 110 million passengers.

Following the pause imposed by the pandemic, the Irish airline spearheaded the recovery of the air transportation sector, assigning the first of its new ecological B737-800 Gamechanger aircraft to Bergamo in July 2021. 11 of the 20 aircraft currently based at Bergamo are Gamechangers, reducing Ryanair’s fuel consumption, CO₂ emissions and noise emissions at Bergamo.

This twentieth anniversary year for Ryanair and Bergamo promises to be the best ever for Bergamo, with 109 summer routes operated by Ryanair from Milan Bergamo, which will be seeing even more passengers in 2022 than in the pre-COVID 2019 period.

*“This is an important anniversary for the airport, for Ryanair, for SACBO and for the city of Bergamo - stated **Emilio Bellingardi, managing director of SACBO**, - the ability to sense and understand the new business model for air transportation twenty years ago has led to an epic change, one in which Milan Bergamo Airport has played a significant role and which has resulted in undeniable benefits for the entire country. The model proposed by Ryanair has served as a forerunner for the process of digitalisation that is now being evoked for a wide range of sectors”.*

Michael O’Leary, CEO of Ryanair, stated: *“Today sees the celebration of the 20th anniversary of our first “Love Flight” to Milan Bergamo Airport, with the highest level of operations ever, offering citizens and visitors to Bergamo 109 routes - 3 of which are new - to exciting destinations such as Corfu, Madeira, Cephalonia and Valencia. Together with SACBO, we have written a thrilling story of success, built on passion and hard work. We will continue to work together with our partner SACBO in order to build further growth. We have based 20 aircraft at Milan Bergamo, and last July the airport saw the debut of the most efficient, comfortable and silent B737 Gamechanger ever. Ryanair is one of Italy’s most important foreign investors; we have invested more than 2 billion dollars in Bergamo alone, providing support for more than 900 generously paid jobs and helping to create more than 8,600 collateral jobs. The 20-year love affair between Ryanair and Bergamo continues! We love you Bergamo!”*

For further information, contact:

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About Ryanair

Ryanair Holdings plc is Europe's largest airline group and parent company of Ryanair, Buzz, Lauda and Malta Air. Carrying 149 million passengers p.a. (pre-COVID) on more than 2,500 daily flights from over 80 bases, the group connects over 225 destinations in 37 countries on a fleet of 450 aircraft, with a further 210 Boeing 737s on order, which will enable the Ryanair Group to lower fares and grow traffic to 200 million passengers p.a. over the next 5 years. Ryanair Holdings has a team of over 16,000 highly skilled aviation professionals delivering Europe's No. 1 on-time performance, and an industry leading 35-year safety record. Ryanair is Europe's greenest airline group and customers switching to fly Ryanair can reduce their CO₂ emissions by up to 50% compared to the other Big 4 EU major airlines.