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ATS BERGAMO PRESENTS THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE HEALTH STATUS OF RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE AREA SURROUNDING BERGAMO AIRPORT

ATS Bergamo has presented the final results of the Epidemiological Study on the health status of residents living in the area surrounding Bergamo Airport. The overall findings are consistent with those of the study conducted in 2015, which found no evidence of health issues attributable to airport operations, although it did identify annoyance caused by aircraft noise.

Airport noise continues to emerge as a source of disturbance and therefore remains an issue that should be monitored. However, the 2026 questionnaire shows a weaker causal correlation than the 2015 survey and than that estimated during Phase II of the study. In particular, the analysis of hypertension—a condition commonly associated with noise exposure—did not demonstrate a confirmed correlation, and this was not supported by the data collected through local pharmacies.

Regarding air quality, the analysis of the main pollutants in the area, particularly PM10 and PM2.5, indicates that airport-related atmospheric emissions do not result in a quantitatively significant increase in health events among the population exposed to airport activities. A high point estimate was observed among subjects exposed to NO₂ in relation to diabetes; however, this finding is not consistent with the magnitude of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) estimates or with the expected specificity of this pollutant.

Overall, from an epidemiological perspective, the results do not document a higher incidence of the main clinical health risks in areas close to the airport compared with more distant areas. This conclusion is further supported by comparison with the 2015 report, which likewise found no differences in disease incidence or mortality, nor any association with measured blood pressure or the prevalence of hypertension.

In conclusion, it is advisable to maintain an up-to-date monitoring programme in order to assess any future developments highlighted by the study.

“ATS has updated the environmental epidemiology study carried out in 2015 by developing, in collaboration with the University of Milano-Bicocca, the four planned phases: literature review, Health Impact Assessment, collection of data from residents, and interpretation of the findings from the previous three phases,” said Massimo Giupponi, Director General of ATS Bergamo. “The outcome of these activities confirms that the epidemiological picture has remained substantially stable. The study confirms the need to manage the airport’s acoustic impact on local residents and, consistent with the situation described ten years ago, highlights the importance of continuing to manage the main health risks.”

“The study conducted by ATS clearly presents a reassuring picture, ruling out the existence of an ‘airport case’—that is, any measurable impact of airport operations on the health conditions monitored and considered of greatest concern,” said Giovanni Sanga, Chairman of SACBO. “It is encouraging to see that the overall health scenario remains essentially unchanged from what was observed ten years ago. Nevertheless, our responsibility



towards local residents goes beyond regulatory requirements and underscores the value of regular monitoring. In this regard, we are pleased to renew our collaboration with ATS. At the same time, SACBO will continue its commitment to sustainability by investing financial resources in increasingly effective environmental mitigation measures, working together with all stakeholders involved in aviation activities.”

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