

PRESS RELEASE

NAPLES AIRPORT TO BE CLOSED FROM 4-6 JUNE FOR SPECIAL RUNWAY MAINTENANCE WORK*
THE THREE DAYS OF CLOSURE INVOLVE PASSENGERS REPROTECTED ONTO THE AIRPORTS OF ROME (FIUMICINO AND CIAMPINO) AND BARI AND CANCELLED FLIGHTS

Naples International Airport **will remain closed to traffic** from 11:00 p.m. (local time) 3 June 2007 until 6:00 a.m. (local time) 7 June 2007 **to allow for special runway re-paving work. To all effects, the period of closure will be three days - Monday 4 June, Tuesday 5 June and Wednesday 6 June (51 hours total) – inasmuch as, under normal conditions, flight operations are suspended everyday from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.**

The repercussions of the three-day closure of Naples Airport – 4-6 June - involve approximately 50,000 passengers (the daily average is some 16-18,000 arriving and departing passengers) and **nearly 300 flights in three days (an average of 110 per day).**

GESAC- the Naples Airport management company - informed all of the airlines operating from Naples of the closure far in advance (a formal notice was sent 15 March 2007). Subsequent to Gesac's prompt communication, each airline took measures to modify their flight schedules during the period of closure as best suited to their own operational and commercial considerations. Based upon the terms of the transportation contract implicit with the purchase of a ticket on the part of the passenger and the Passenger Rights Charter currently in effect, airlines are obliged to inform ticketed passengers of any change in flight operations.

In brief, the airlines operating from Naples Airport have provided for either *reprotecting* their flights onto the airports of Rome and Bari or cancelling the flight with some options.

- **Some airlines**, mostly foreign, decided to confirm their flights to/from Naples by ***diverting*** their flights to the alternate airports of Rome Fiumicino and Ciampino or Bari and providing for a ground transfer, using dedicated buses, from Naples Airport to the selected alternate airport:
- **Instead other airlines**, especially Italian airlines, opted to ***cancel*** scheduled flights to/from Naples, and offer the following alternatives:
 - ***Rerouting***, that is changing the route, by offering passengers the possibility of reaching destination by departing from an alternate airport using one of the airline's other scheduled flights (without providing for transfers via dedicated bus service);
 - ***Rebooking***, the possibility of cancelling the ticket and either reimbursing the passenger or providing for a new reservation;

Arriving passengers from flights diverted to alternate airports will reach Naples by ground transport.

Check-in counters will be open and functioning as usual in order to direct passengers from flights diverted to other airports to the appropriate buses. **Every day during this period, some 40 buses (in departure and arrival) have been provided for.**

The food service areas (cafés, Autogrill restaurant) will observe normal opening hours as will most of the shops within the Terminal as to ensure that passengers will have access to primary services (*car rentals*, ticket offices, currency exchange etc...)

Despite the suspension of operations, all GESAC operational personnel, with the exception of those directly involved in the repaving work, will be present at the airport with the specific task of providing passengers with assistance in reaching their buses bound for the alternate airports.

GESAC Customer Service personnel will be present with en force in order to support passengers present in the airport and provide assistance and information as well as respond to calls on the dedicated number **+39.081.7896.408** which has been activated specifically to provide information regarding the shuttle service in departure from Naples..

Passengers who have purchased tickets valid during the period of closure are requested to contact their airlines for information regarding their flights.

Naples, 1 June 2007

* **Details of special runway maintenance work:**

The special maintenance work on the runway will entail removal of the old asphalt covering and repaving the runway in addition to the installation of a runway centreline

The overall cost of the work, financed with European Union PON funds, is 6 million Euro.

Special runway repaving work was last performed in 1993.

Gesac – the Naples Airport management company – wishes to inform airport users that every effort has been made to concentrate this complex maintenance work into three days during which work will be conducted 24 hours/day and that companies and personnel involved in this extraordinary task will be working for 72 consecutive hours.

A total of 4 companies and more than 230 persons, in addition to involved airport personnel, will be working full time to complete the special runway maintenance work

High levels of organisation of resources and equipment have been established precisely with the objective of reducing the duration of the work to a minimum and with the aim of creating the least amount of inconvenience possible for all airport users and city and regional tour operators.