

## PRESS RELEASE

**Today, 7 June, Naples Airport reopened to traffic following three days of closure - 4, 5 and 6 June – scheduled by GESAC for special runway repaving work. \* Flights and ground handling have resumed normal operations. Flight IG881 bound for Milan Linate was the first flight to take off at 6:40 a.m. local time.**

**Today, 7 June 2007 – as of 6:00 a.m. (local time) – Naples International Airport re-opened to traffic.** Special runway repaving work was completed in record time – in only three days of closure (4, 5 and 6 June 2007) – thanks to the enormous organisational effort exerted by GESAC, the airport management company – and a significant commitment of human resources and equipment.

**The special runway work, which was last conducted in 1993, involved: removal of the asphalt covering and repaving of the runway. Furthermore, during the next two months a centreline will be installed during night-time closing hours.** *“This is a truly excellent result which has been obtained thanks to the combined commitment and efforts of the private companies and government agencies operating in the airport. We would like to thank all of those who worked full-time, at a full pace and non-stop towards such a difficult endeavour as repaving the runway. This has allowed us to achieve an important objective for Naples Airport and we would like to add that a job such as this has never before been completed in such a brief time frame in Europe”* **declared** with great satisfaction **Marco Consalvo –General Director Gesac Spa – Naples Airport management company**

**The first flight to depart from and arrive on the “new” runway was flight IG881 for Milan Linate operated by Meridiana which arrived in Naples at 06:10 a.m. (without passengers) and took off at 6:40 a.m. with 156 passengers on board.**

**Following closure, all flights and ground handling resumed normal operations.** Only during the earliest hours – from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. – as previously announced, 7 departing flights were cancelled by the airlines owing to the fact that there had been no *night stop* the night before as a consequence of the three days of runway work.

All airport services, food and beverage services (cafés, Autogrill restaurant) and the primary passenger services (*car rentals, ticket offices, currency exchange etc*) *within the airport are fully operational and working normal opening hours.*

The significant organisational undertaking sustained by the airport management company during the period of closure also enabled additional infrastructure work related to the extension of the passenger terminal to be completed. Indeed, **as of today, in addition to the new runway, the new arrivals lounge which has been significantly extended- and now boasts a 5-baggage conveyer belt configuration, a new lost & found and first aide centre which are all operational as well as 13 new check-in counters in the departures area in addition to the 30 previously existing counters (with a new baggage handling system and ex-ray controls for hold baggage).** The work being conducted in the terminal –plans call for in 2008 - with an intense schedule which will ultimately provide users with a more functional and comfortable airport and will include further extension and reconfiguration of spaces dedicated to passenger services.

The objective of the management company was to reduce the work timetable to the maximum thereby creating as little inconvenience as possible to airport users and city and Regional tourist operators, with the ulterior aim of concentrating both the runway work and the terminal extension work by optimizing efforts.

**Naples, 7 June 2007**

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

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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. Special runway repaving work was last performed in 1993.

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

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 was conducted 24 hours/day and that companies and personnel involved in this extraordinary task worked for 72 consecutive hours.