

Bureaucracy blocks Jubilee funding.

Modernization and enlargement of the Naples airport deferred due to delays by the Ministry of Transport.

Plans for modernization and enlargement of the Naples airport in preparation of the Jubilee which called for an expenditure of 22 billion 575 million lire have been blocked by bureaucratic procedures which have impeded access to funds made available by the Government with Laws 270/97 and 194/98.

The funds, totalling 16 billion 460 million lire, were intended for building a parking area reserved for 50 tourist buses at a cost of 7 million, eliminating architectural barriers (1 billion 75 million) and remodelling of the ex-CTP area (Public Transport Consortium) which included plans for a 500 car parking area and a new airport access road for a total of 14.5 billion, 10 billion of which were to have come from the Ministry of Transport.

In particular, work on the 19,450 m², ex-CTP area has come to a standstill even though all the appropriate bureaucratic procedures have all been completed. These procedures included the signing of a protocol agreement between the Prefecture, the City of Naples, the Province, Gesac and CTP, clearing of the area and a commitment, on the part of Gesac, to pay 5 billion Lire on account for acquisition of the area in question during the expropriation procedures

Although Gesac has shown its willingness to anticipate the sum needed for clearing the area, the Ministry has not, as yet, given authorization, which has obliged Gesac to pay charges and expenses equalling 60 million Lire per month since last April 19.

The Treu 68T decree of 25 May 99, registered in the State Auditor's Department, reassigned the Jubilee funds tied to the work in question which had previously been assigned by the Burlando 72/T decree of 1998, and also provided the possibility of authorizations to anticipate the funds. Infrastructure work has been blocked by the fact that the authorizations have yet to be granted, the final project, prepared and ready months ago, has yet to be approved and the special agreement with the Transportation Department for the release of funds to the airports concerned in Law 194/98 has yet to be signed.

Work related to the elimination of architectural barriers and the building of the tourist bus parking area has also been stalled. In this case, Law 270/97 provides for the direct use of funds by the Transportation Department, which has yet to publicly call for bids in order to assign the job.

These considerable delays have provoked, among other things, the possible revocation of funds designated for the tourist bus parking area by the Prime Minister's Office.

"This situation makes it impossible for Gesac to fulfil its commitment to the city, impedes the required airport development needed to meet tourist traffic predicted for the Jubilee, creates severe inconvenience for tourists and a negative image of the city – stated Mauro Pollio, Managing Director of Gesac.