

## **Agreement signed awarding Total Airport Management Licence to Naples Airport. Gesac finally obtains ENAC recognition of its rights.**

Today the agreement awarding a Total Airport Management Licence to the Capodichino Airport was signed at the ENAC offices.

This step constitutes an important result inasmuch as it recognizes the full legitimacy of the privatisation process which began in 1997. The agreement, nonetheless, is merely the first step towards actual total management of the airport. In deed, not only is the agreement pending ministerial approval before it can become effective, but confirmation of the agreement duration, which by law ranges from a minimum of 20 years to a maximum of forty years, is pending as well.

**Mauro Pollio, Gesac CEO and Managing Director**, commented: "We are pleased that our rights have been recognized however, we can't help but emphasize the fact that the agreement signed today –which is temporarily in effect for three years – does not resolve the management problems of the Naples Airport."

"It is a well known fact", continued Pollio, "that total management is an instrument for programming airport activities and infrastructural development, however in order to be effective, it must be programmed for a time range which coincides with the guidelines set forth in current regulations."

"Therefore", concludes Pollio, "while expressing satisfaction for the objectives obtained, we request that approval of the agreement by the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport be expedited as quickly as possible and strongly urge his intervention in accelerating the administrative procedures which are required for determining the agreement duration which, by law, has been established between twenty and forty years."

Other airports awarded total airport management last year and still under three year temporary duration phase have also recently issued statements in agreement with those of the GESAC C.E.O.. In fact, these statements reiterate the concept that the three year temporary duration of such agreements do not give the companies any certainty in terms of management and infrastructure development and have created a serious state of confusion and crisis in the airport sector.

Naples International Airport, which closed 2001 with 4,000,000 passengers, has recorded passenger traffic, from January to October, in the area of 3,600,000. Currently, scheduled service is available from the Naples airport to 13 domestic destinations and 9 international destinations including the major European capitals as well as to over 50 charter flight destinations.