

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SALVINI INAUGURATES THE 20-MILLION-EURO RYANAIR MAINTENANCE HANGAR AT BERGAMO

2 NEW STRUCTURES FOR MAINTENANCE AND 100 NEW JOBS FOR ENGINEERS IN THE LOMBARDY AREA

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transportation Matteo Salvini today (Monday 6 March) inaugurated the 4th and 5th Ryanair maintenance hangars at Milan Bergamo Airport. These two new hangars represent a further 20 million euros in investment from Ryanair at Bergamo Airport and will create more than 100 new highly paid jobs in the aeronautical engineering sector for the Lombardy region.

The Deputy Prime Minister Salvini was welcomed in Bergamo by the Managing Director of the Ryanair Group Michael O'Leary, the president of SACBO Giovanni Sanga, the Managing Director of SACBO Emilio Bellingardi, the president of the Italian Civil Aviation Authority Pierluigi Di Palma and local authority representatives. The official inauguration ceremony also saw the participation of the Mayors of Bergamo and Orio Al Serio, and numerous important guests.

Ryanair has invested more than 50 million euros in its 5 latest-generation maintenance hangars, which currently provide 250 highly paid jobs in the aeronautical engineering sector in Bergamo and the Lombardy region. These two new hangars will allow Ryanair to transfer a significant proportion of its internal maintenance of Boeing 737s to Bergamo, while the Ryanair fleet at Bergamo Airport will increase to 24 aircraft in summer 23 (an investment by Ryanair of more than 2 billion dollars in Lombardy). Ryanair continues to grow and invest in Italy, where for summer 23 it will be basing 98 aircraft, providing support for more than 3,000 direct jobs in its bases and its 30 Italian airports. In 2023, Ryanair plans to transport more than 56 million passengers to and from Italy, thus consolidating its position as number one in the Italian market.

*“Ryanair has introduced a new model for air travel in Italy - stated the **president of ENAC, the Italian Civil Aviation Authority Pierluigi Di Palma** - and over the last 20 years at Bergamo, it has played a lead role in a revolution in air mobility. The city's management company, SACBO, has become a driver for the local economy. In this context, ENAC can only stress the important role that it has played, 21 years ago, in granting the airport company the free extension of the airport concession for a further forty years, allowing the far-sighted managers to invest in the future and raise the traffic from 500,000 pax to the current 14 million. Today we celebrate twenty years of Ryanair's base in Bergamo, the third most important airport in Europe for the low-cost airline. In short, it is a demonstration of how bureaucracy in Italy, when allowed to suitably regulate the market, can stimulate economic growth in the area, with important repercussions in employment both in terms of number and of professional quality. It is also a pleasure for me to recall the first positive meeting that I had with Michael O'Leary more than 20 years ago, when I was Director General of ENAC, the important role that the airline Ryanair has played since then in the civil aviation sector in Italy, and the growth that it has contributed to in terms of traffic, also transforming how millions of people travel. Discussions between ENAC and Ryanair management must continue to be constant, also in order to guarantee services that are in line with current regulations, with both parties convinced that passengers and their rights must be a cornerstone of the system”.*

*“Twenty years ago, Ryanair opened its operational base here, and over time it has become the most important in its network in continental Europe - stated **Giovanni Sanga, president of SACBO** - the story of Ryanair at Bergamo Airport is one of a shared success, the result of a common vision that has led to growth in terms of size and quality”. “The inauguration of the two new hangars, which join the three existing structures and are destined for maintenance of Ryanair aircraft, serves as a definitive confirmation of the partnership between SACBO, Bergamo Airport and the airline - **stressed Emilio Bellingardi, the Managing Director of SACBO** - This new and significant investment by Ryanair is the forerunner of an even longer lasting relationship, confirming the success of the current collaboration”.*

Michael O’Leary of Ryanair said: *“As the number one airline in Italy, where this year we plan to increase our traffic to 56 million passengers, Ryanair is delighted to welcome the deputy prime minister Salvini to Bergamo, our largest Italian base, where we have invested more than 2 billion dollars, with 24 aircraft based here. This further investment worth 20 million euros for the two new hangars for maintenance, and the creation of more than 100 new jobs in the aircraft maintenance sector, underlines Ryanair’s commitment in Bergamo, in Lombardy and in Italy in general. We are extremely grateful to our partners at Bergamo Airport and for the leadership and the vision demonstrated by the Managing Director Emilio Bellingardi and his team, who continue to work in close contact with Ryanair to guarantee increased growth in Bergamo, in Lombardy and in Italy”.*

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About Ryanair

Ryanair Holdings plc is Europe’s largest airline group and parent company of Buzz, Lauda, Malta Air, Ryanair & Ryanair UK. Carrying 168 million passengers p.a. with approximately 3,000 daily flights from over 90 bases, the group connects over 235 airports in 37 countries with a fleet of 517 aircraft, with a further 132 Boeing 737s on order, which will enable the Ryanair Group to increase traffic to 225 million passengers p.a. by the 26 financial year. Ryanair has a team of more than 19,000 highly qualified aviation professionals who offer the best operative performance in Europe and has been the holder of the best safety record in the sector for the last 37 years. Ryanair is Europe’s greenest and cleanest airline group and customers choosing to fly with Ryanair can reduce their CO₂ emissions by up to 50% compared to the other European major airlines.

About Milan Bergamo Airport

Milan Bergamo Airport, the third airport in Italy in terms of traffic, saw more than 13 million passengers in 2022. In 2023, the network of routes includes 148 destinations in 39 countries. Thanks to the investments made by SACBO, the airport now has the infrastructure, the services and the technical and operational capacity to connect the territory to national and European routes, in turn connecting to the rest of the world. Further upcoming works in the airport include the expansion of the check-in area and the construction of the railway terminal.