

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3336/01

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to the Commission

Subject: 'Third satellite' building at Malpensa Airport and environmental impact assessment

Work is due to start very shortly on a new building, known as the 'third satellite', at Milan's Malpensa Airport, which will deal with the terminal's aircraft docking systems, as well as all passenger and freight loading and unloading operations. This building was authorised by Ministerial Decree 903/87 on the basis of the same design and volume as the existing buildings. The foundations of the 'third satellite' were therefore built in line with the design and volume of the first two.

The new building project, which has apparently been approved by the Ministry of Construction, is different from that approved in 1987 (Minister of Transport Decree of 13 February 1987, No 903/87 - General development plan for Malpensa Airport) and provides for a new 'third satellite' whose height, volume and passenger flow will be well in excess of the first two 'satellites', built in 1997-98. According to official statements, Malpensa's capacity is due to increase from 20-22 million to 40 million passengers (if not more) a year¹. The amended plans will result in a building which will differ substantially from the original project. This is illustrated by the fact that the new plans for the building of the 'third satellite' actually provide for the demolition of the existing foundations, which were designed to carry the loads expected under the 1987 project (two storeys and three levels), and not the five storeys and six levels which are now being planned.

No environmental impact assessment procedure was conducted with regard to the 'third satellite' plan, despite the fact that significant changes had now been made.

Recent requests for access to information on the subject have simply met with unspecific and evasive replies from local mayors, the SEA ('Società Esercizi Aeroportuali') and the Ministry of Transport.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to carry out an environmental impact assessment of the 'third satellite' infrastructure, in accordance with Directives 85/337/EEC² and 97/11/EEC³?

Would the Commission not agree that Directive 90/313/EEC⁴ on the freedom of access to information on the environment has been circumvented?

¹ See La Prealpina, 28.4.2001.

² OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.

³ OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.

⁴ OJ L 158, 23.6.1990, p. 56.