

Genoa's International Airport: 2018, a record year

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Christopher Columbus Airport has posted its best all-time monthly passenger throughput, whilst international traffic increased overall by 25% in the first half of the year. Following objective: upgrade transport links to/from the Airport of Genoa.

The Airport of Genoa reports double-digit growth: total passenger traffic rose by 12.2% in the first six months of the year. July 2018 ranked as the airport's best all-time monthly record, posting 169,519 passengers, a 24.7% gain on last year's corresponding period. Genoa welcomes a surge in international traffic: a 25.4% increase in the first half of the year, compared to an average of 7.5% across other Italian airports, with the month of June registering a 39.8% advance on the previous year.

2018 is poised to represent a turning point for Genoa's International Airport: the 25 direct destinations offered in 2017 have risen to 39 this year, including flights to Copenhagen (SAS), Madrid, Mykonos, Lamezia Terme and Lampedusa (Volotea), in addition to new destinations in Great Britain (London Luton, Manchester and Bristol) and Germany (Berlin with Easyjet and Munich and Frankfurt with Lufthansa). New departures are also offered to Athens by Aegean Airlines and charter flights to Glasgow and Tel Aviv. Whilst other airlines have boosted the weekly frequency of flights to Amsterdam and Paris.

New facilities recently installed in the airport terminal building include a tourist information centre in the arrivals lounge, a wider selection of bars and restaurants, a chemist's, easier access to the baggage reclaim area; whilst the refurbished exclusive Genova Lounge registered a 71% increase in users between January and June of this year. In addition, the on-terminal shuttle bus services have increased the daily frequency of departures.

During the press conference, **Paolo Emilio Signorini, the President of the Western Ligurian Sea Port Authority**, majority shareholder of the company Aeroporto di Genova which operates the airport, declared, *"Today we have started to reap the benefits of the excellent work which has been conducted in the past year. Now that the airport has demonstrated that it has the capability to boost substantially yearly passenger movements, the local political community can assist us in meeting further challenges in terms of new terminal building/rail links and improved integration between the airport and the city."*