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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.10.2026)

The Commission recognises the importance of air connectivity to promote territorial cohesion of the EU, including its island regions and recalls that Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires particular attention to regions suffering from severe and permanent natural and demographic handicaps, including islands. Decisions on whether to develop a new airport, however, fall primarily within national and regional competence. It is therefore for the Italian authorities, in cooperation with the competent regional bodies, to assess transport needs, traffic forecasts, environmental constraints, territorial impacts, cost-benefit aspects and consistency with the applicable national and Union legal framework, including rules on State aid, environmental protection and the overall EU transport and climate objectives.

Under the current Multiannual Financial Framework, the Connecting Europe Facility provides limited funding to airports, focused on traffic management systems, alternative fuels and the electrification addressing pan-European safety and environmental issues. Support from Cohesion policy funds is also limited to environmental mitigation measures and security, safety and air traffic management systems in outermost regions and existing regional airports.¹

¹ See Article 7 ERDF/Cohesion Fund Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of 24 June 2021.