



Media relations
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Media Release

regarding judgment A-1248/2024 of 12 February 2026

Federal Administrative Court upholds third track Bellinzona–Giubiasco

The Federal Administrative Court dismisses the appeals against the decision of the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) approving the third track project between Bellinzona and Giubiasco with the new Piazza Indipendenza stop.

Some of the seventeen appellants challenged the necessity of the project, invoking in this context a potential railway bypass project for Bellinzona. However, most of the arguments concern noise: the appellants challenged the environmental impact assessment evaluations, the planned height of the noise barriers, and the granting of exemptions.

The Court confirms that the project complies with the Transport Sectoral Plan (TSP-RI) adopted by the Federal Council in 2018 and represents an overriding public interest. Furthermore, the alternative of a railway bypass for Bellinzona is not feasible at present: the planning of such a railway bypass as an integral part of the FAIF programme has been postponed by the Federal Parliament to a date yet to be determined. The Court rejected the criticism of the environmental impact assessment, confirming that the noise assessment methods comply with the law. Finally, the height of the noise barriers is constrained by the proximity of UNESCO sites (the three Castles of Bellinzona) and ISOS sites (the Town of Bellinzona): the permissible height of the barriers could not be increased given the landscape protection requirements. Ultimately, in the absence of technically feasible and economically sustainable measures, the exemptions are justified.

This judgment may be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court.

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About the Federal Administrative Court

Located in St. Gallen, the Federal Administrative Court (FAC) was established in 2007. With its staff of 395 employees (334 FTE) and its 79 judges (70 FTE) it is the largest federal court in Switzerland. The Federal Administrative Court has jurisdiction to hear appeals against decisions rendered by Swiss federal administrative authorities. In specific matters, the FAC may grant review on decisions rendered by cantonal authorities. Recourse actions are also reviewed by the Court. The FAC is composed of six divisions. It renders an average of 7,000 judgments every year.