

Italian taxi drivers stage wildcat strike over pro-Uber bill

February 16 2017



Cabs are parked in downtown Turin as taxi drivers stopped all over Italy to protest against a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. (Alessandro Di Marco/ANSA via AP)

Taxi drivers in Rome, Milan and Turin are staging wildcat strikes to protest proposed Italian legislation they say will favor Uber and other car-sharing services.

Commuters were stranded when the walkout began Wednesday. The ANSA news agency reported that with taxis still idled Thursday, Rome's airports arranged for extra shuttle services to get passengers into town.

Drivers say the legislation, which suspends until the end of 2017 norms to control car-hire and car-share services, would help Uber's "irregular" inroads into Italy's rigidly regulated taxi industry. Supporters say Italians want greater choice in ride-sharing options.

A Milan court in 2015 ruled that Uber's UberPop service, which allowed drivers without professional licenses to hook up with passengers via a [smartphone app](#), created unfair competition.



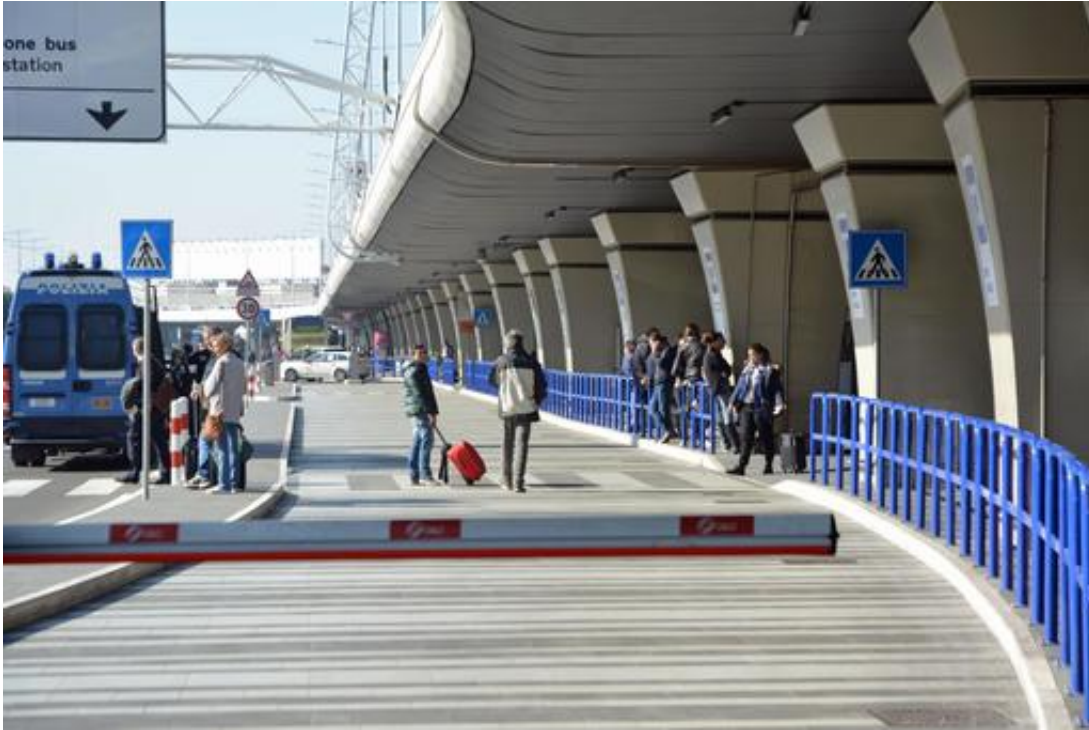
Cabs are parked in downtown Turin as taxi drivers stopped all over Italy to protest against a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. (Alessandro Di Marco/ANSA via AP)



A taxi driver speaks to his colleagues gathered in downtown Turin, northern Italy, during a protest against a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. (Alessandro Di Marco/ANSA via AP)



Taxi drivers participate in a rally in downtown Turin as cabs stopped all over Italy to protest against a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. (Alessandro Di Marco/ANSA via AP)



Passengers wander across a deserted taxi stand at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport in Fiumicino, during an Italian taxi drivers protest against a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber which is being voted in the Italian Senate, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017.
(Telenews/ANSA via AP)



Taxi drivers gather outside the Italian Senate in Rome where a government proposed bill on transportation that they fear would endanger their business by favoring American worldwide online transportation network company Uber is being voted, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. (Claudio Peri/ANSA via AP)

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