A major strike has started in the wage dispute between the federal and local public sector, which is likely to largely paralyze 13 German <u>airports</u>. The ver.di union has called on employees at airports such as Munich, Frankfurt am Main, Cologne/Bonn and Berlin/Brandenburg to stop work. In another wage dispute, aviation security staff are also expected to go on strike at the same time. This call also applies to Weeze airport near Düsseldorf and Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden airport. Hundreds of thousands of passengers are affected by the strike.

<u>Berlin</u> /Brandenburg Airport announced that it would completely cease regular flight operations on Monday. Other airports are expecting a greatly reduced flight schedule and delays. The airport association ADV assumes that a total of more than 3,400 flights will be cancelled.

ADV General Manager Ralph Beisel described the strikes as a horror scenario for airline passengers. "Striking at eleven locations at the same time is a new dimension." The <u>warning strikes</u> would have "far-reaching consequences for individual mobility and economic processes."

## Early strike at Hamburg Airport at the start of the holidays

At Hamburg Airport, employees brought the strike forward by one day and stopped work on Sunday. This meant that the airport was at a standstill just as the spring holidays were starting in the state. Of the 144 arrivals and 139 departures planned for Sunday, only around 10 flights could take place in the morning, according to airport spokeswoman Katja Bromm; all other flights were cancelled.

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Bromm accused the union ver.di of being reckless, among other things because it had only announced the strike 30 minutes before it was due to begin. "In doing so, ver.di is harming the people above all." She said that the frequency with which the union is targeting Hamburg Airport with strikes was unacceptable.

Ver.di union secretary Lars Stubbe countered that when work stoppages are announced, the airport takes action and deploys strikebreakers, for example.

## Third round of negotiations starts on Friday

With the warning strike, the union ver.di wants to increase the pressure on the federal government and the association of municipal employers' associations in the current collective bargaining round before the third round of negotiations starting on Friday.