

German train drivers to go on strike beginning Wednesday

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Berlin, August 31 (RHC)-- Germany's GDL train drivers' union said on Monday it would go on strike on September 1st for a week after wage talks with rail operator Deutsche Bahn (DBN.UL) failed to yield a compromise.

The strike, the third and longest in the current wage dispute, will affect freight services from Wednesday afternoon while passenger traffic will be affected from the early hours on Thursday. The strike will run until September 7th.

"This is one of our longest strikes," said GDL chief Claus Weselsky, ruling out open-ended industrial action. GDL, which has already held two strikes in August, is demanding a 3.2% increase for drivers in addition to a coronavirus bonus of 600 euros.

Deutsche Bahn has said that it is ready to meet the wage rise demand but that the two sides could not agree on when the increase should go into effect.

"A negotiable offer is on the table," Deutsche Bahn's HR chief Martin Seiler said in a statement. "Wage agreements cannot be dictated."

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