

A pay rise for German civil servants

Employees of the German civil service will receive a 4.75% pay rise spread over two years, following a salary agreement reached on Friday, May 6, after a warning strike which disturbed air traffic on the previous Wednesday.

The agreement reached between the Federal State and municipalities, on the one hand, and the United Services Trade Union [ver.di](#), on the other, covers about 2.14 million people and provides for a pay increase of 2.4% this year and another 2.35% in 2017, Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière said, following a third round of negotiations in Potsdam, hailing, in his words, a 'fair' agreement.

For the "Public Service" in general, the agreement takes effect on the 1st of March 2016. However, account must be taken of the constitution of a reserve (*Versorgungsrücklage* under Art. 14 *BBesG*) which reduces the above mentioned amounts by 0.2 points.

Consequently, German civil servants will receive the following increases:

On 1 March 2016, a 2.2 % increase.

On 1 February 2017, a 2.15 % increase.

This increase will be further curtailed by a reduction of the 13th month pay.

This matters for us, too, since these increases will have a repercussion on the 2016 and 2017 updates of our remuneration on the basis of the Method set out in [Annex XI of the Staff Regulations](#).

The Method for updating remuneration and pensions is founded on the principle of parallelism of our purchasing power with 'salaries of national civil servants in central government'. For that purpose, the rules set a sample of 11 Member States, within which Germany represents a weight of 23.7%. This is why any change occurring in Germany has an important influence on our salaries and pensions.

We therefore reap the fruits of action led by national trade unions, through the automatic effect of the Method enshrined in our Staff Regulations. [Derailing the Method, in the way that happened from 2011 to 2014](#), cannot occur any longer, given that updates are now conducted by the Commission alone without any intervention from the Council.

Just like [ver.di](#), [Union Syndicale Fédérale](#), our umbrella organisation, is affiliated to the Public Services International ([PSI](#)) and to the European Public Service Union ([EPSU](#)). Social progress has its cost!