

Airport boss: Munich are missing slots for Ryanair base

MUNICH - The Frankfurt Airport opens its gates for low-cost airlines. The Munich airport is already pushing new boundaries without new airlines. In the absence of slots, Eurowings will remain the last significant new starter in Munich, said airport Chief Michael Kerkloh to the news agency "Reuters".

At the end of March, Eurowings, Lufthansa's low-priced airline, started operation with four Airbus A320 and 32 destinations in Munich. Ryanair, however, will only see Munich out of the air. "We do not have the slots for Ryanair, so a base is impossible," said Kerkloh.

Also the surprise withdrawal of the Air France-KLM low-cost airline Transavia, which breaks its tents in Munich after only one year, explains the airport missing starting and landing windows. Although Transavia was "on a really good path", only 80 per cent of the requested slots were received, said the airport chief.

Kerkloh is therefore promoting the construction of a third runway. Without their full capacity, Munich will not continue to grow.

Despite several strikes, the number of passengers at the airport last year rose by three percent to the new peak of 42.3 million. The number of take-offs and landings increased by four per cent. In 2017, Munich is targeting a further plus of four per cent.

In the spring, the state government, federal government and the state capital as an airport owner will meet to decide whether to push forward the construction of a third runway and to hold a new referendum. The project has been on ice since the negative Munich referendum of 2012.