



By: TA | AP Brief

Munich Airport reopens after second closure in less than 24 hours due to suspected drones



Germany's Munich Airport reopened Saturday morning after authorities shut it down the night before for the **second** time in less than 24 hours after more suspected drone sightings, the airport said in a statement.

The closures are the latest after mysterious drone **overflights** in the airspace of European Union member countries.

The airport, one of Germany's largest, reopened gradually beginning at 7 a.m. local time (0500 GMT) Saturday. Planes typically begin taking off at 5 a.m.

At least 6,500 passengers were impacted by the overnight closure Friday into Saturday, the airport said.

The previous closure, Thursday night into Friday, affected almost 3,000 passengers.

Authorities were not immediately able to provide any information about who was responsible for the overflights.

The incident was the latest in a series of incidents of mysterious drone **sightings** over airports as well as other critical infrastructure sites in several European Union member countries. Drones also were spotted overnight in Belgium above a military base.

A drone **incident** in Oslo, the capital of Norway, which is a NATO member but not part of the EU, also affected flights there late last month.

A race between drone threat and drone defense

It wasn't immediately clear who has been behind the flyovers. European authorities have expressed concerns that they're being carried out by Russia, though some experts have noted that anybody with drones could be behind them.

Russian authorities have rejected claims of involvement, including in recent drone

incidents in Denmark.

Alexander Dobrindt, Germany's interior minister said he and some European counterparts would discuss the drone incursions, and a "drone detection and defense plan" at a meeting this weekend in Munich.

"We are in a race between drone threat and drone defense. We want to and must win this race," he said in the western city of Saarbrücken, where he joined German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron at a ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of Germany's reunification.