

Ver.di rejects employers' pay offer

 [Germany](#)

Following a second round of pay negotiations covering federal and local government workers, ver.di has rejected the employers' latest offer. The employers claim the deal is the equivalent of a 5% increase on pay but ver.di argues that in fact by the end of 2009 workers would be worse off than they are today. The employers want a two-year deal with increases of 2.5% from 1 February 2008, 1.0% from 1 October 2008 and 0.5% from 1 March 2009. A further 0.5% in each year would be performance-related and so not available to all workers. Ver.di also criticises the offer because the employers want workers to effectively finance the deal because they are demanding an increase in working hours to 39.5 a week from 1 July 2008 and then to 40 hours a week from 1 January 2009.

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