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Help! We're too tired to fly the plane! Jumbo jet 'landed on autopilot after crew issues distress call due to extreme fatigue'

The pilots on board the Air Berlin flight from Majorca issued a pan pan call – a distress signal used in a state of urgency - as they approached Munich Airport



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A jumbo jet carrying holidaymakers home from Spain had to be landed on autopilot because the crew were TOO TIRED, it has been reported.

The pilots on board the Air Berlin flight from Majorca issued a pan pan call – a distress signal used in a state of urgency - as they approached Munich Airport.

The cockpit crew are believed to have asked for priority landing rights, stating that they were extremely fatigued.

German Air Traffic Control (DFS) confirmed the incident happened at 10.15am on May 5, [according to the Aviation Herald](#) .

DFS spokesman Axel Raab [told German website WDR.de](#) : “The request was granted and the plane landed 12 minutes later at 10.27 in Munich with no problems.”



Back on the ground: The flight was eventually landed safely at Munich Airport
Rex

The incident is the first time a pan pan call has been used due to fatigue, according to DFS.

Captain Ilya Schultz, president of the pilots’ union Cockpit, described the incident as an “unusual and alarming event”.

He was quoted as saying: “For me it is currently the only case I know of, which shows the dramatic nature of this incident.

“A pilot will only send such a dangerous message when he knows that he cannot guarantee the safety of the flight.”

Pan pan calls are only used when there is a state of urgency – in this case, the crew considered their state of alertness to be compromising a safe landing.

The scare has also raised safety issues surrounding pilots’ shifts the crew members are believed to have been on duty for 10 hours at the time of the incident.

The flight time from Majorca to Munich is around two hours and 15 minutes. The Airbus 330 can carry up to 335 passengers.

Air Berlin has yet to comment on the incident.