

German railway: Floods caused €1 billion damage to network



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel. File picture by Bernd von Jutrczenka/Pool via AP

Germany's national railway operator has estimated that last week's flooding caused damage worth €1.3 billion (£1.1 billion) to its network, offering another glimpse of the extent of the devastation.

Authorities are still working to determine the overall cost of the floods that did their worst damage in western Germany and eastern Belgium.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said this week that the damage is “immense” and will take a long time to repair.

At least 177 people died in Germany in the flooding and a further 31 deaths were reported in Belgium, taking the overall death toll to 208.

German railway operator Deutsche Bahn said that more than 50 bridges, 180 level crossings, nearly 40 signal boxes, over 1,000 electric and signal masts, as well as energy and lighting systems and station elevators were damaged.

“Never before has our infrastructure been destroyed to this extent in one go,” said Volker Hentschel, a board member at the company’s DB Netz infrastructure division.

He said its initial estimate is that the flooding caused damage to the railway network and stations of around €1.3 billion.

The government, which owns Deutsche Bahn, has vowed to make a quick start on rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Hentschel said it will take “months, if not years” to restore everything, though the company is confident of repairing 80% of the damaged infrastructure by the end of this year.

Separately, Turkey also has seen flooding in recent days.

Work was continuing to find a missing person following floods in Artvin province in the country’s northeast that started on Wednesday, and one person was being treated for injuries. More than 450 people were evacuated.

At least six people were killed last week and two were missing after floods in neighboring Rize province.

Source:

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/worldnews/2021/07/23/news/german-railway-floods-caused-1-billion-damage-to-network-2397272/>

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