

**Question for written answer E-004479/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Bart Groothuis (Renew)

Subject: European reserve fleet for repairing subsea power cables

Subsea power cables are vital for Europe's energy security, both to ensure connections between Member States and the supply of offshore wind energy. At the same time, these cables are vulnerable to hybrid threats, as incidents in the Baltic Sea have shown. The JRC is warning that repair operations could take months, due to a structural shortage of specialist cable repair vessels, which could have major consequences for electricity generation and transmission.¹

In the EU Action Plan on Cable Security of February 2025² the Commission proposed establishing a multi-purpose 'EU Cable Vessels Reserve Fleet', which could be deployed for emergency repairs of subsea power and data cables. There are also market-led initiatives, such as the collaboration between Prysmian and N-Sea.³ However, industry is stressing that without concrete European action the continuity of the electricity supply is under threat.⁴ A public-private partnership is therefore essential to boost Europe's offshore repair capacity, given the high costs involved in constructing cable vessels, the rising demand for maintenance and the increasing geopolitical risks.⁵

1. What steps has the Commission taken since the action plan was published and what time frame does it envisage for the further development of a European reserve fleet?
2. How will the Commission, together with the Member States, the EU agencies, NATO and private partners, structure the administrative and operational collaboration relating to this fleet?
3. Have the potential sources of funding for the reserve fleet already been determined and how will they be coordinated with other maritime and energy programmes, such as the Industrial Maritime Strategy?

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¹ Publications Office of the European Union, Pohoryles, Daniel, "Submarine Cable Infrastructure: Risks, Resilience and Repair Capacity in Europe", Luxembourg, 30 April 2025, <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC142001>

² Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council – EU Action Plan on Cable Security, Brussels, 21 February 2025, JOIN(2025) 9 final, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/joint-communication-strengthen-security-and-resilience-submarine-cables>

³ Windpower NL, 3 April 2025, <https://windpowernl.com/2025/04/03/n-sea-to-deliver-full-suite-of-cable-repair-and-maintenance-services-to-prysmian/>

⁴ IMCA, 11 August 2025, <https://www.imca-int.com/news-events/imca-news/news/critical-undersea-infrastructure-at-risk-industry-warns-of-repair-gaps-in-europe-s-digital-and-energy-networks/>

⁵ GSIS Hamburg, 19 June 2025, https://www.gsis-hamburg.com/fileadmin/gsis/2025/pdf/gi25_executive_briefing_20250619_archive.pdf