

**Priority question for written answer P-003032/2024**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
Rule 144  
**Bart Groothuis (Renew)**

Subject: Sanctioning and deterring hybrid operations

Hybrid operations in Europe have been on the rise over the course of 2024. There have been multiple reports of attempted sabotage of Swedish drinking water reservoirs<sup>1</sup>. Similar operations have been observed in Finland<sup>2</sup> and Germany<sup>3</sup>. Besides the wave of concerted Russian disinformation and offensive cyber-operations against critical European infrastructure, telecom cables in the Baltic Sea have been sabotaged<sup>4</sup> and we have seen Russian assassination attempts on EU soil, such as the attempted assassination of the CEO of Rheinmetall<sup>5</sup>.

1. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) investigate or has the VP/HR already investigated these listed cases?
2. Will the VP/HR use the hybrid toolbox to attribute, sanction and deter these hybrid operations?
3. What other countermeasures does the VP/HR have at their disposal to deter this kind of malicious behaviour?

Submitted: 18.12.2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sverigesradio.se/avsnitt/darfor-tar-fienden-sikte-pa-vart-dricksvatten-grans>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/07/26/russia-sabotage-poison-finland-water-treatment/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyn8d7mypo1o>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/12/world/europe/baltic-fiber-optic-cables-ship.html>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-tried-assassinate-ceo-arms-firm-sending-weapons-ukraine-cnn-reports-2024-07-11/>.