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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(15.1.2026)

The Action Plan on Cable Security<sup>1</sup> addresses the security of critical communication and energy submarine cables. The Commission has been consulting industry and Member States to better understand their needs regarding optical and power cables repairs. Looking ahead, concrete project proposals for the development of regional cable hubs are expected in 2026, which will aid in improving detection and facilitate repair operations.

To structure collaboration on cable security and resilience, the Commission intends to leverage existing maritime frameworks and will integrate a multi-tier approach involving Member States, EU agencies, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and private partners. The defence dimension in the hubs proposal will play a crucial role in ensuring military integration for response actions.

For optical cables, the Commission will follow up on the announced modular repair equipment capacity ready to be plugged on vessels to increase the responsiveness of the EU, in a cost-effective manner. A first pilot call is expected to be issued in 2026 under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Digital programme, targeting the Baltic Sea, followed by one more CEF call open to all EU sea basins.

In addition, dedicated calls to support smart cable systems and cable projects of European interest are expected to be issued in 2026 to address the prevention and detection requirements mentioned in the Action Plan, in cooperation with the deployment of the regional cable hubs, funded via the Digital Europe Programme.

The Commission is committed to making sure that funding aligns with strategic maritime and energy objectives to support infrastructure security and resilience, and that such actions are eligible under the upcoming multiannual financial framework.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0009>.