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E-004524/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.2.2026)

According to Telegeography¹ and the report from the Commission Expert Group on the security of submarine cables², there are almost 600 active optical submarine cables around the world, of which around 200 have at least one landing station in a Member State.

According to the same report, at least 14 major companies own 29 dedicated data cable repair vessels globally along with numerous companies owning multipurpose vessels primarily used near shores and in small sea basins for repairing and installing small power and submarine data cables.

To ensure continued connectivity of submarine cables, the Commission adopted the EU Action Plan on Cable Security³ enhancing the resilience of submarine cable infrastructures while also fostering collaboration with Member States for emergency response as outlined in the Recommendation (EU)2024/779⁴. The Action Plan prioritises incident prevention by encouraging Member States to establish regional Cable Hubs for improved threat assessment and information-sharing within a given sea basin. To mitigate consequences of a potential widespread submarine cable disruption, the Action Plan focuses on minimising incident impact by deploying additional data cables. The Commission has already invested, via Connecting Europe Facility, approximately EUR 548 million in 58 submarine cable projects across the EU or linking EU to third countries. The Expert Group will identify key cable projects of European interest to further strengthen redundancy. Additionally, to expedite repairs, the Commission will launch a call on deploying modular repair equipment at strategic locations, serving as a contingency for urgent repairs during large-scale incidents when repair services cannot meet urgent needs.

¹ <https://www.submarinecablemap.com/>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/security-cables-commission-publishes-landmark-report-and-funding-cable-hubs>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0009>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/779/oj/eng>.