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PROCIV 117
HYBRID 110
CYBER 246
MARE 34
POLMAR 54
POLMIL 266
TELECOM 302
INTER-REP 131

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Presentation by Europacable regarding the industry's recommendations to enhancing the security and resilience of subsea power and telecom cables.

Delegations will find attached the presentation in subject delivered by Europacable at the PROCIV CER WP meeting on 15 September 2025.

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Industry's recommendations to enhancing the security and resilience of subsea power and telecom cables

Dr. Volker Wendt – Secretary-General, Europacable
Alberto Lampasona – Senior Director Public Affairs, Europacable

Subsea Power and Telecom Cables

Reliable, Strategic, Made in Europe for Europe



Subsea Power and Telecom Cables

Reliable, Strategic, Made in Europe for Europe

- 
- **Subsea power and telecom cables are:**
 - strategic, critical net-zero technologies empowering Europe's decarbonisation & digitalisation
 - built to last at least 40 years in a harsh aquatic environment – and they do!
 - tailor-made to the specific project requirements as defined by operators
 - **Europe is home to the world's leading cable manufacturers – we have:**
 - the technology, experience & capacity to produce, install & maintain cutting edge cable systems
 - monitoring and sensing technologies to enhance cable security & resilience
 - established repair capacities & agreements with operators – let's adapt these to the new reality!
 - ***Cables made in Europe for Europe securing our electricity and telecom operations***

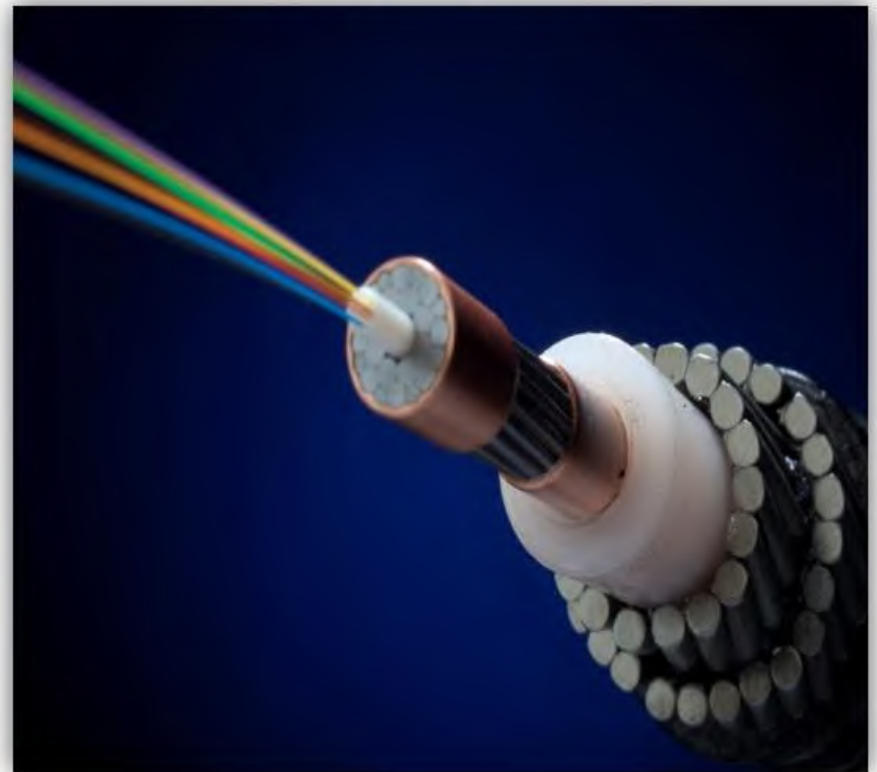
Spot the difference: Power and Telecom Subsea Cables

Two fundamentally different cable technologies

Power cables



Telecom cables



Spot the difference: Power and Telecom Subsea Cables

Two fundamentally different cable technologies

Power cables

Connect renewables & interconnect countries

- Copper / Aluminium core
- Voltages up to 420kV AC / 525kV DC
- Mechanical reinforcement for protection
- Max Depth: around 3.000 m
- Usual weight: 65 kg/m for 1 HVDC cable
- Fibre optics can be included for monitoring
- Heavy machinery and boats are required
- Specially trained crew for installation, maintenance & repairs
- Tailormade cables for each project

Telecom cables

Seamlessly transfer data across the globe

- Optical fibre core
- Light signals: Unlimited
- Mechanical reinforcement for protection
- Max Depth - unlimited
- Usual weight: 3 kg/m for telecom cable
- Smaller boats, longer distances
- Specially trained crew for installation, maintenance & repairs
- Tailormade cables for each project

➔ *Clear need to distinguish between subsea power and Telecom cables*

➔ *Remember: Every subsea cable is tailormade – No harmonisation needed*

Cable Security & Resilience: Today's State of the Art Subsea Power and Telecom Cables are well protected



Cable Security & Resilience: Today's State of the Art

Subsea Power and Telecom Cables are well protected

➤ **Cable design**

- Protective & armoring layers effectively shielding against fishing & anchoring impacts

➤ **Cable installation**

- Shallow waters: cables buried into seabed
- Deep waters: cables dropped onto seabed
- Specific installation methods readily available to further increase cable security & resilience
 - ex-post rock dumping for existing cables; and/or
 - deeper burial techniques for future infrastructure

➤ **Cable monitoring and surveillance**

- Various monitoring and sensing technologies available
- Objective: monitor cable performance to ensure full life-time operations

➤ *Subsea cables are well protected for operations under normal conditions*

➤ *Standards in place ensure their full operational performance over life-time*

Cable Security & Resilience: Responding to new reality

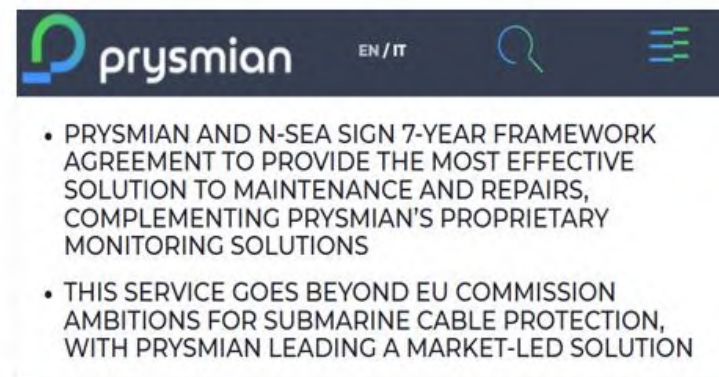
Europacable Recommendations to enhance Europe's repair capacity



Baltic Cable Repair



Efficient repair of a submarine cable system between Sweden and Germany in just 29 days.



Nexans closes groundbreaking service level contract with Equinor

Cable Security & Resilience: Responding to new reality

Europacable Recommendations to enhance Europe's repair capacity

- **Deploying available technologies**
 - Monitoring, sensing and repair technologies & market solutions are readily available
 - Can be added to existing and/or future assets
 - Objective: minimise threats, detect incidents, respond & rapidly repair damaged cables
- **Upgrading maintenance & repair service agreements**
 - Operators to define security needs & associated level of performance for their specific assets
 - Where possible, regional harmonisation of performance needs on top of existing service level agreements should be considered
 - Introduction of OPEX compensation / incentive schemes at national level to compensate operator's expenditures supported by EU level where possible
- **Leave it to the market: No need for EU repair vessels / fleet**
 - Required availability of dedicated power & telecom repair vessels to be arranged through industry/operator service level agreements
- ***Financial implications of increasing protection should be considered***

Cable Security & Resilience: Europacable recommendations

Response to the EU Cable Security Action Plan

Power cables

- Mandatory security screening of non-trusted third country cable suppliers
- European Preference for infrastructure equipment in EU Public Procurement
- Operators to make full use of available technologies & market solutions
- “Security by Design” approach mandating Smart Cable deployment and unified data governance
- Retrofitting older power cables
- “Cable Security Toolbox” for power cables
- Fast repairs through mandatory repair service agreements
- Strategic stockpiling of grid essentials
- Repair Vessels to be made available through service level agreements

Telecom cables

- Mandatory deployment of available monitoring technologies
- Promotion of existing maintenance and repair agreements
- Continuous fleet renewal
- Creation of regional security policy response frameworks
- Increased Accountability

Cable Security & Resilience: Responding to new reality

Europacable recommendations to the EU Cable Security Action Plan



Power cables

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Enhancing the Security and Resilience of Subsea Power Cables in European Seas

Brussels, 17 September 2023

Europacable, the voice of Europe's leading cable system manufacturers, recommends for the following aspects to be considered to further enhance the Security and Resilience of Europe's subsea power cable assets:

- **Mandatory security screening of non-trusted third country cable suppliers**
- **European Preference for Infrastructure equipment in EU Public Procurement**
- **Operators to make full use of available technologies & market solutions**
- **"Security by Design" approach mandating Smart Cable deployment and unified data governance**
- **Outsourcing subsea power cables**
- **"Cable Security Toolboxes" for power cables**
- **Fast repairs through mandatory repair service agreements**
- **Strategic stockpiling of grid essentials**
- **Repair vessels to be made available through service level agreements**

Based on the technical and operational experience of our European member companies, we urge for these to be accounted for when implementing the EU Action Plan on Cable Security as published by the European Commission in February.

Underground and subsea power cables are strategic and critical net-zero technology empowering Europe's decarbonisation. Recent incidents have shown the urgent need for Europe to enhance its prevention, detection as well as response and recovery capacities against intentional damages. Both, short and mid- to long-term solutions are needed. Technical as well as market solutions are readily available to be deployed by operators. The industry is fully committed to actively enhancing the resilience of Europe's critical subsea assets.

Europacable recommends the following:

i) Enhancing the Security of critical subsea power cable infrastructure

ki) Mandatory security screening of non-trusted third country cable suppliers
Subsea power cables the lifeline cables deployed within wind parks, export cables connecting wind parks to shore and notably energy interconnectors cables between two countries are critical assets carrying sensitive information. Europe is home to the world's leading cable system manufacturers and should leverage on this to ensure that Europe's networks are built with cables made in Europe for Europe. Mandatory security screening of non-trusted third country cable suppliers should be consistently applied to control and limit access of non-trusted third country suppliers across all legislation, regulation, public procurement, private tenders and to projects receiving EU funds, including EU grants and EIS loans and/or credits.

➤ **Europacable recommends the introduction of mandatory security screening of non-trusted third country cable suppliers both in public procurement, private tenders as well as in EU funded projects.**

li) European Preference for Infrastructure equipment in EU Public Procurement
Public Procurement is a strategic tool to support important sectors and reinforce the EU's key competitiveness priorities and decarbonisation ambitions in leading net-zero technologies, such as grid equipment manufacturing. The development of a dedicated "European



Telecom cables

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Enhancing the Security and Resilience of Subsea Telecommunication and Data Cables in European Seas

Brussels, 17 September 2023

Europacable, the voice of Europe's leading cable system manufacturers, recommends for the following aspects to be considered to further enhance the Security and Resilience of Europe's subsea telecommunication and data cable assets:

- **Mandatory deployment of available monitoring technologies**
- **Provision of existing maintenance and repair agreements**
- **Continuous fleet renewal**
- **Creation of regional security policy response frameworks**
- **Increased Accountability**

Based on the technical and operational experience of our European member companies, we urge for these to be accounted for when implementing the EU Action Plan on Cable Security as published by the European Commission in February.

In a regular operational context, Europe's subsea telecommunication and data cable assets are resilient and well protected. Telecom and data cable systems are redundant and established, well-functioning regional service agreements combined with modular technologies ensure fast repairs. However, recent intentional damages inflicted upon subsea telecommunication and data cable links require Europe and its member states to upgrade their security and repair capabilities.

Europacable recommends the following:

i) Mandatory deployment of available monitoring technologies
Mandating the use of advanced monitoring technologies for both new and existing subsea cables will enhance assets' security. Technologies such as Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS), Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), and real-time measurements can provide critical data for threat detection and response. Furthermore, engaging with ICPC International Cable Protection Committee to review whether and if so how physical measures, such as additional armouring and burial requirements, may make cables more resilient against intentional damage.

➤ **Europacable recommends introducing mandatory deployment of monitoring and sensing technologies for existing and future projects.**

➤ **Europacable recommends reviewing with ICPC whether additional physical protection measures may be considered for future critical subsea telecommunication infrastructures.**

ii) Promotion of existing maintenance and repair agreements
Long-term maintenance and repair agreements, such as APMA and MEDMA, are well established and have demonstrated their effectiveness in ensuring rapid response and efficient repairs. Europacable firmly believes that these agreements should be promoted to facilitate additional investment decisions of service providers. Doing so will further enhance Europe's coordinated and timely response capabilities.

➤ **Europacable recommends extending existing maintenance and repair agreements to new cable owners to share costs and resources, thereby fostering a collaborative approach to maintenance.**

LINK

LINK

Introducing Europacable

The voice of Europe's leading wire and cable manufacturers

Member Companies & Partners



National Associations

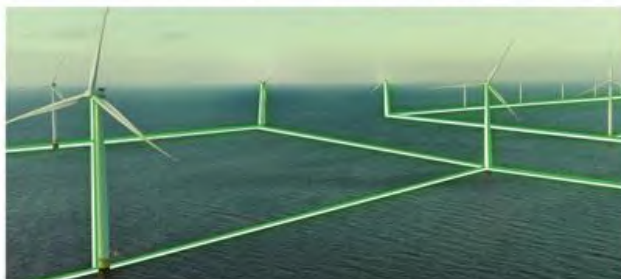


Associated Industry Partners



Introducing Europacable

Cables made in Europe for Europe!



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Try life without us