EU cuts fiber optic cable



Overview

What we know about the cut subsea cables in the Red Sea?

Two cables linking Europe to the Middle East and Asia have been reportedly cut in the Red Sea, affe.

Key Takeaways

Two major undersea fiber optic cables in the Baltic Sea were cut in November 2024, raising suspicions of sabotage and prompting European security investigations.

Incident Overview

On 17–18 November 2024, two submarine fiber optic cables were disrupted in the Baltic Sea: the BCS East-West Interlink connecting Lithuania and Sweden, and the C-Lion1 linking Finland and Germany (Telia Lietuva and Cinia Oy, respectively) (Wikipedia; NetworkWorld).

The BCS East-

West Interlink spans 218 km, while the C-Lion1 is 729 miles long, serving as a critical data route between Central Europe and the Nordic region (Wikipedia).

Suspected Causes



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European authorities and NATO member states have treated the incidents as potential acts of sabotage rather than accidental damage (NetworkWorld; CBS News). Suspicion has focused on the Chinese cargo ship Yi Peng 3, which was present near the cables at the time of the disruptions. Western intelligence suggests the ship's anchor may have caused the damage, either accidentally or under the influence of Russian intelligence (Wikipedia; Carnegie Endowment).

The German Defense Minister emphasized that the damage was unlikely to be accidental, highlighting the vulnerability of undersea cables to deliberate attacks (NetworkWorld).

Security and Geopolitical Implications

Undersea fiber optic cables carry 97% of intercontinental data flows and are critical for both civilian and military communications (The Bulletin). The Baltic Sea has become a hotspot for targeting such infrastructure, with previous incidents including the NewNew Polar Bear damaging cables and pipelines in 2023 (Carnegie Endowment). These events underscore the growing hybrid warfare risks in Europe, particularly involving Russian and Chinese activities near NATO and EU infrastructure (CBS News; The Bulletin).

European governments have mobilized national security agencies, including border guards, defense forces, and maritime patrols, to investigate and protect undersea infrastructure (The Bulletin). The incidents have prompted discussions on improving surveillance, deterrence, and resilience of critical communications networks across the EU and NATO.

Broader Context

Globally, about 200 undersea cables are disrupted annually, mostly due to accidental damage from anchors or fishing equipment, but deliberate sabotage is increasingly a concern in geopolitically sensitive regions (Wikipedia). The Baltic Sea incidents highlight the strategic importance of undersea cables and the need for coordinated international measures to safeguard them against both accidental and intentional threats.

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Article Content

What we know about the cut subsea cables in the Red Sea?

Two cables linking Europe to the Middle East and Asia have been reportedly cut in the Red Sea, affecting internet connections.

Two undersea internet cables connecting Finland and Sweden to

A fiber-optic internet cable connecting Finland to Germany and another between Lithuania and Sweden, both running under the Baltic Sea, were cut within 24 hours of one another.

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Hours later, Germany, Finland and Lithuania reported two submarine fiber optic cables had been cut. These were the BCS East-West Interlink, which connects Lithuania and Sweden, and

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A cargo ship severed an undersea telecommunications cable in the Gulf of Finland on Wednesday in what the Finnish police said they suspected was an act of sabotage that led them to

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Securing Europe''s Subsea Data Cables

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Friday''s Comcast Outage Was Caused by Cut Fiber Cables | WIRED

Comcast customers across the country experienced outages Friday, thanks to multiple cuts to fiber optic cables.

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan Advance Trans-Caspian Fiber-Optic Cable

The Trans-Caspian Fiber-Optic Cable Line project is being implemented by AzerTelecom, a backbone internet provider in Azerbaijan operating within Azerconnect Group, which is part of

Pre-Terminated Fiber Cable: A Technical Guide

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Pre-terminated fiber cables have become a cornerstone of this transformation, offering pre-installed connectors that accelerate deployment and

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