

Western Europe cuts fiber optic cables



Article Overview

In November 2024, two major submarine fiber optic cables in the Baltic Sea—the BCS East-West Interlink and C-Lion1—were cut, causing significant disruptions and raising suspicions of deliberate sabotage.

Overview of the Incident

On 17-18 November 2024, the BCS East-West Interlink (connecting Lithuania and Sweden) and the C-Lion1 cable (linking Finland and Germany) were severed in the Baltic Sea . The cables were cut within 60-65 miles of each other, suggesting a coordinated event rather than accidental damage . The BCS East-West cable, at a depth of 100-150 meters, carried about one-third of Lithuania's internet capacity, while the C-Lion1 cable, at 20-40 meters deep, is the only direct link between Finland and Central Europe .

Suspected Causes

Authorities suspect deliberate sabotage, potentially linked to geopolitical tensions in the region. A Chinese cargo ship, Yi Peng 3, was present near the cables at the time, and Western intelligence officials have speculated that its anchor may have caused the damage, possibly under Russian influence . Similar incidents in the Baltic Sea, including the Estlink 2 cable disruption and previous pipeline damages, indicate a pattern of targeting undersea infrastructure as part of hybrid warfare .

Impact...



Article Content

Red Sea cable chaos: Why the Internet didn't go dark

Cables affected by September 6 cuts Major cables impacted include South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4

Cutting of 4 Submarine Fiber Optic Cables in the Red Sea Affects

It is estimated that 17 percent of global Internet traffic passes through underwater fiber-optic cables in the Red Sea, with

Red Sea undersea cable cuts disrupt internet in Asia and Middle East

Damage to key fiber-optic systems slows connectivity across India, Gulf, and wider Asia. Muscat: Internet services

Full-fibre networks in Europe: state of play and future evolution

Active equipment includes equipment in the network to transmit data on the fibre-optic cables, and equipment in

Europe's full fibre frontrunners revealed by new Copper Switch-Off

Launched at the FTTH Council Europe's Policy Dialogue event, the Copper Switch-Off Tracker has been created in

A rash of Baltic cable-cutting raises fears of sabotage

In six days there have been six instances of damage or disruption to undersea cables in the Baltic Sea. The latest

The Unsolved Mystery Attack on Internet Cables in Paris

On April 27, an unknown individual or group deliberately cut crucial long-distance internet cables across multiple sites

Sweden opens "sabotage" investigation into severed Baltic Sea fibre ...

Sweden opened a probe Tuesday into "sabotage" after two undersea fibre-optic cables in the Baltic Sea were cut,

U.S. and China wage war beneath the waves

It started out as strictly business: a huge private contract for one of the world's most advanced undersea fiber-optic

Three Fiber-Optic Cables Were Cut in the Red Sea. Will It Slow down ...

Damage to three undersea fiber cables in the Red Sea has forced internet providers to reroute a massive amount of

Fibre optic cable sabotage causes global internet slowdown

A cable at a major landing point for undersea internet cables was cut, causing a chain reaction of connectivity

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

Submarine cables: The weakest link in Europe's strategic infrastructure

Hours later, Germany, Finland and Lithuania reported two submarine fiber optic cables had been cut. These were the

Two undersea internet cables connecting Finland and Sweden to Europe ...

A fiber-optic internet cable connecting Finland to Germany and another between Lithuania and Sweden, both running

2024 Baltic Sea submarine cable disruptions

On 17–18 November 2024, two submarine telecommunication cables, the BCS East-West Interlink and C-Lion1 fibre-optic cables,

Chinese-Flagged Ship Suspected of Cutting Cables Remains Halted

After fiber-optic cables under the Baltic Sea were cut last month, European officials hurried to stop the Yi Peng 3. It's

Multiple Subsea Fiber Cuts in Red Sea Impact Traffic

Multiple subsea fiber optic cables in the Red Sea suffered simultaneous cuts on September 6, 2025, disrupting global

Law Can't Stop Undersea Cable Cutting by Russia and China

Six undersea cables in the Baltic Sea and Taiwan Strait have been severed since November. Russia and China may

Two undersea cables in Baltic Sea disrupted, sparking warnings of

Two undersea internet cables in the Baltic Sea have been suddenly disrupted, according to local telecommunications

Sub-Sea Cable Outages In Red Sea Affecting Connectivity In India

Almost all the data traveling between Asia and Europe goes through 11 fiber-optic cables at the bottom of the Red Sea.

Lithuania sees "quite high probability" that Baltic Sea

Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda said on Friday that there was a quite high probability

International Cable Breaks in Red Sea Cause Latency Surge Across

A series of undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea have caused widespread internet slowdowns across Asia and the

Europe faces rising risk of underwater cable sabotage

Underwater fiber-optic cable breaks in the Baltic Sea and elsewhere are becoming more common, with many

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