

**Question for written answer E-001519/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Bart Groothuis (Renew), **Petras Auštrevičius** (Renew)

Subject: Russia's programme to surveil and sabotage North Sea infrastructure

According to a recent report¹, Russia has a concerted programme to sabotage wind farms and communication cables in the North Sea and elsewhere. Disguised as fishing trawlers and research vessels, armed Russian ships carrying underwater surveillance equipment are mapping key sites for possible sabotage, which could severely hamper communication or jeopardise energy security. Similar sightings have been confirmed by the Dutch intelligence services and by Norwegian and UK officials, as well as in other European waters.

1. Given the urgency and the growing threat of risks to our subsea infrastructure, will the Commission accelerate and intensify the planned resilience, coordination and surveillance measures described in the Action Plan of the Maritime Security Strategy in order to thwart these foreign intelligence and sabotage operations?
2. Are there sufficient sensors to inform the respective EU agencies' situational awareness and surveillance of threats to our maritime infrastructure, and is there a threat information-sharing or cooperation mechanism between EU agencies and NATO, and with Member States and industry operators?
3. Has the Commission taken diplomatic measures against Russia to deter these kinds of operations, or will it take such measures?

Submitted: 10.5.2023

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65309687>.