

**Question for written answer E-002178/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Submarine cables: what is the Commission's plan for this strategic infrastructure?

Transatlantic submarine telecommunication cables account for 99 % of global data traffic. They therefore play an essential role in ensuring that the global economy runs smoothly.

However, these cables are susceptible to attacks that could disrupt communication or compromise confidential data. Several incidents were reported in 2022: a Norwegian fibre optic cable was cut and several kilometres of cable inexplicably disappeared at the end of 2021.

Furthermore, according to the consultancy firm Terabit Consulting, Europe is likely to face a shortage of submarine cables over the next ten years. Data traffic between American and European servers is set to grow at such a rapid rate that the current infrastructure will soon prove to be inadequate. Given that by 2030, the bandwidth demand for the data carried by these cables could reach 13.2 petabits per second, without adequate investment, the digital sovereignty of France and the EU may be at risk.

In light of the above, does the Commission intend to draw up a proper plan to guarantee that submarine cables are fit for purpose?

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