EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY

RESEARCH SERIES · SERIES III / 2026

Strategic Corridors Series - Volume III: Cable, Port and Energy Resilience

A connected research volume on the infrastructure that carries European power and prosperity.

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RESEARCH SERIES

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EXECUTIVE JUDGEMENT

> *European resilience depends on corridors as systems: ports, subsea cables, pipelines, grids, data centres and repair capacity must be governed together because disruption moves across them faster than institutional responsibility.*

KEY FINDINGS

- Corridor risk is produced by interdependence between physical, digital and energy infrastructure.
- Ownership and routing data remain fragmented across regulators and private operators.
- Repair time and spare-component access are often more decisive than nominal redundancy.
- International corridor partnerships can combine investment with shared security and continuity standards.

Corridors as strategic systems

A port is not resilient if its power connection, customs platform, rail access or nearby data links can be disabled. A subsea cable is not secure if repair vessels, landing stations and permits are unavailable. Policy should therefore move from asset lists to service maps that show which combinations of infrastructure deliver an essential function and how quickly each can be restored.

The information deficit

Public authorities often lack a common picture of ownership, dependencies, maintenance contracts and cross-border consequences. Private operators possess detailed information but face commercial and security constraints on sharing it. Trusted reporting environments are required to combine operational detail with public responsibility and to distinguish ordinary commercial failure from coercive or hostile disruption.

Repair as deterrence

Resilience is frequently discussed in terms of redundancy. Redundancy without tested switching and repair capacity can create false confidence. Governments should map specialised vessels, engineers, spare parts, security clearances and emergency permissions. Visible capacity to restore a service quickly reduces the leverage created by disruption and can therefore contribute to deterrence.

A corridor partnership model

Europe should offer partner regions a package that links infrastructure finance, digital and environmental standards, skills, maintenance and crisis coordination. Such partnerships are stronger when they improve local economic value and institutional capability rather than treating partner territory only as a route to European markets.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

01 Develop cross-sector maps of essential corridor services and recovery dependencies.

02 Create secure data-sharing arrangements with infrastructure operators.

03 Pre-negotiate access, repair and customs procedures for major disruptions.

04 Exercise simultaneous failures across cable, port and energy systems.

05 Embed maintenance and local capacity in external connectivity finance.

DECISION AND MONITORING MATRIX

Priority	Decision horizon	Evidence of progress
Develop cross-sector maps of essential corridor services and recovery dependencies.	0-90 days	Subsea cable repair time
Create secure data-sharing arrangements with infrastructure operators.	3-12 months	Port-power dependencies
Pre-negotiate access, repair and customs procedures for major disruptions.	12-36 months	Availability of specialised vessels
Exercise simultaneous failures across cable, port and energy systems.	Continuous	Cross-border permit delays
Embed maintenance and local capacity in external connectivity finance.	Annual review	Subsea cable repair time

INDICATORS TO WATCH

- Subsea cable repair time
- Port-power dependencies
- Availability of specialised vessels
- Cross-border permit delays

SOURCES AND METHOD

This publication distinguishes verified institutional evidence from CERAX interpretation and forward-looking judgement. Principal public sources are listed below; all recommendations are the institutional judgement of CERAX.

- European Commission, Critical Raw Materials Act

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Independent analysis. Diplomatic judgement. European perspective.