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Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Unit 1, Omega Business Village
Northallerton
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6th December 2017

Undersea cables Indispensable, insecure

Dear Sir,

I am Chairman of the European Subsea Cables Association (ESCA) www.escaeu.org, the association that represents national and international companies which own, operate or service submarine cables in European and surrounding waters. Our membership comprises the companies that own and operate telecommunications and power cables on the UK Continental Shelf and many renewable operators. Please visit our website to see a complete list of our membership.

This communication is in regards to the report on undersea cables authored by you and published by Policy Exchange on 1st December 2017.

ESCA acknowledges the report but is unable to agree with all of its recommendations. ESCA welcomes the demand for greater protection of cables in law and the acknowledgement that subsea cables are critical national and global infrastructure.

ESCA notes there are some inaccuracies and misunderstandings in the report, about which it has some concerns and would have welcomed the opportunity to provide input into the report prior to its publication.

ESCA's members have taken, and continue to take, the security and protection of their assets seriously.

ESCA would welcome the opportunity to discuss the findings and recommendations of this report further.

Yours faithfully

Peter Jamieson
Chairman.
European Subsea Cables Association

Copy to: Policy Exchange
Patrick Boot, DCMS