

Securing the energy system: Hybrid threats, cybersecurity and blackout preparedness

Austrian Energy Day 2026

Remember this?

„Don't smoke“

Ibiza Video

Different type of crisis

Issue

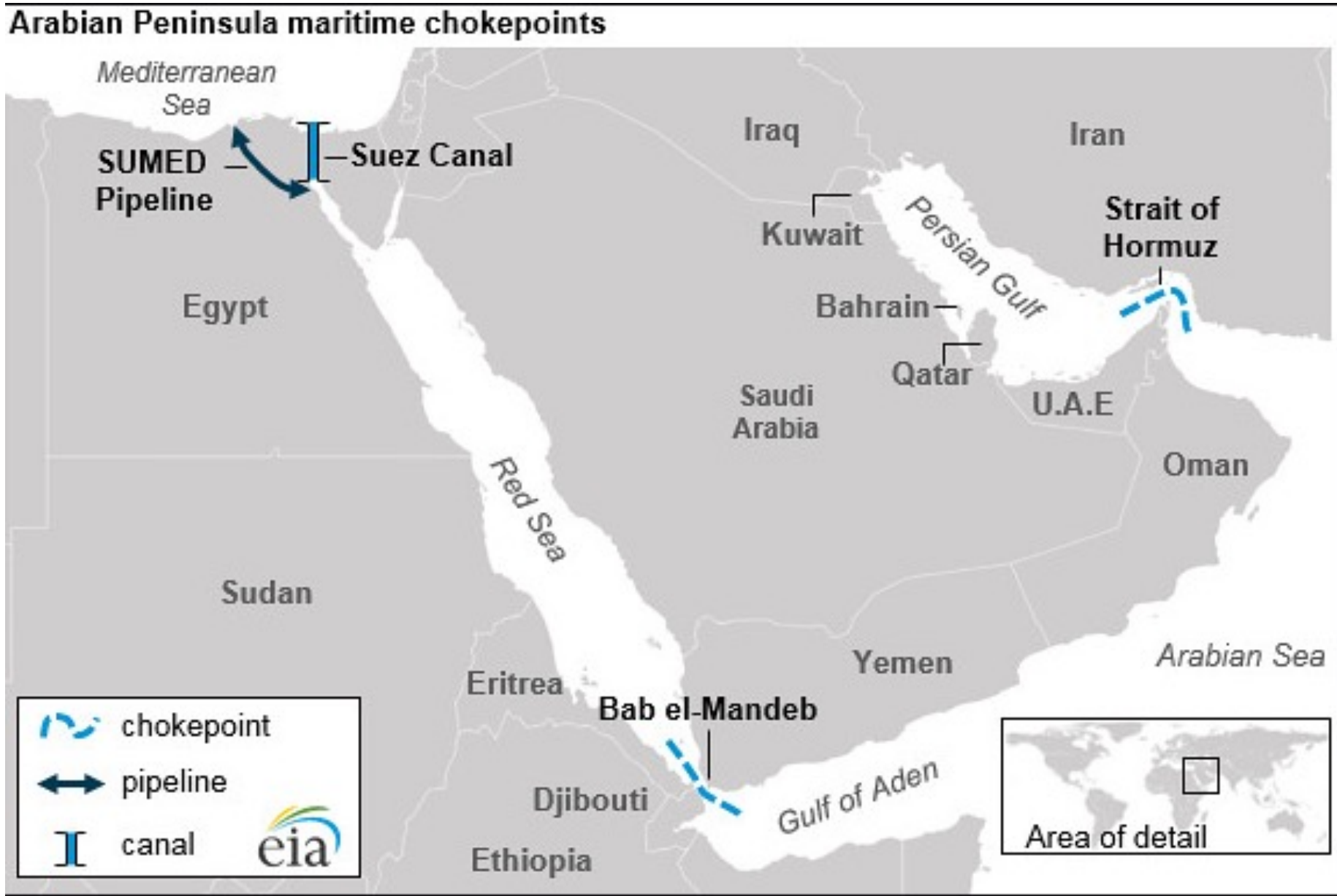
Problem

Crisis

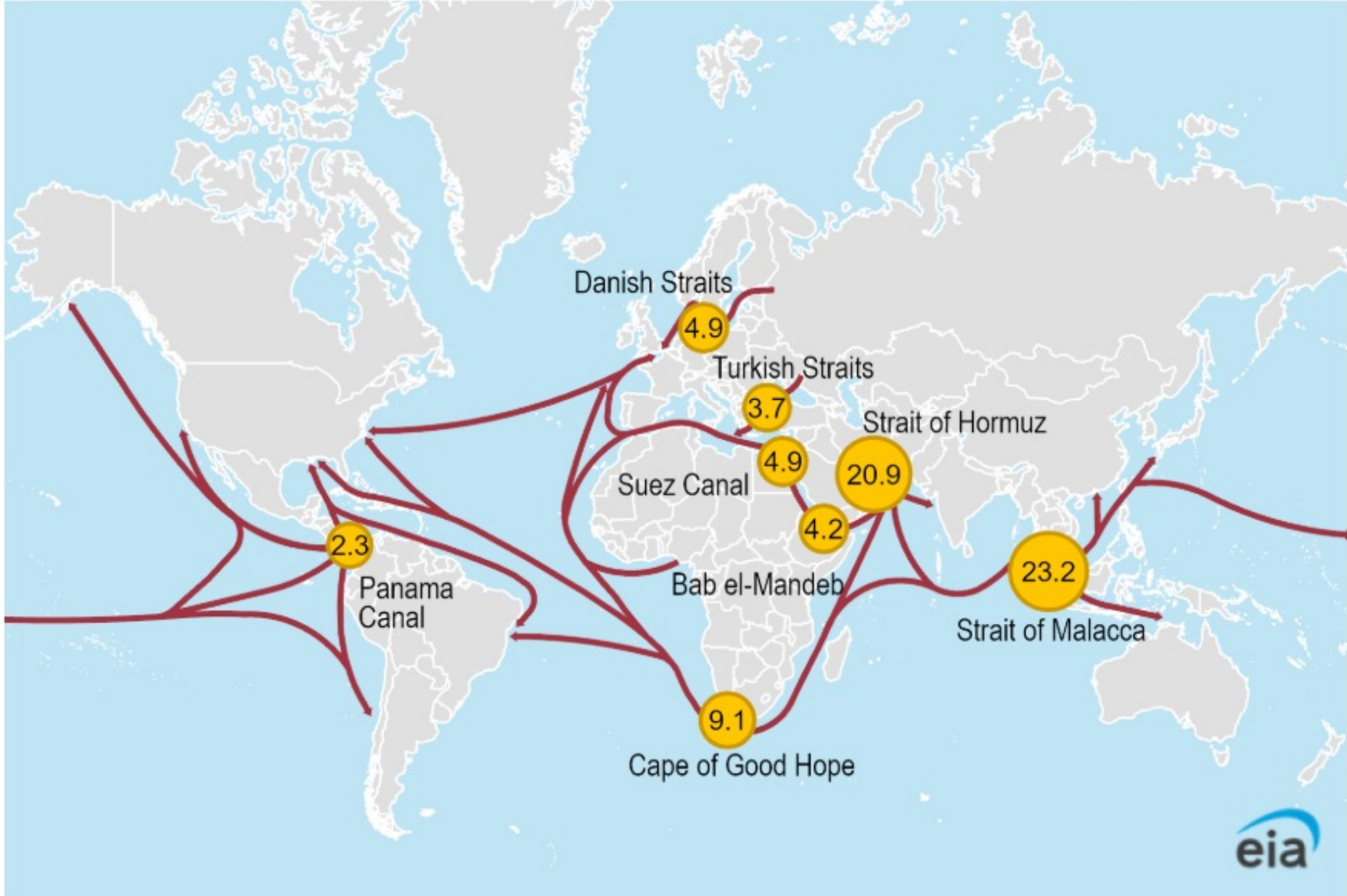
Poly-Crisis

The Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

Map of daily transport volumes of crude oil and other liquids through the world's maritime oil chokepoints (in million barrels per day) (1H25)

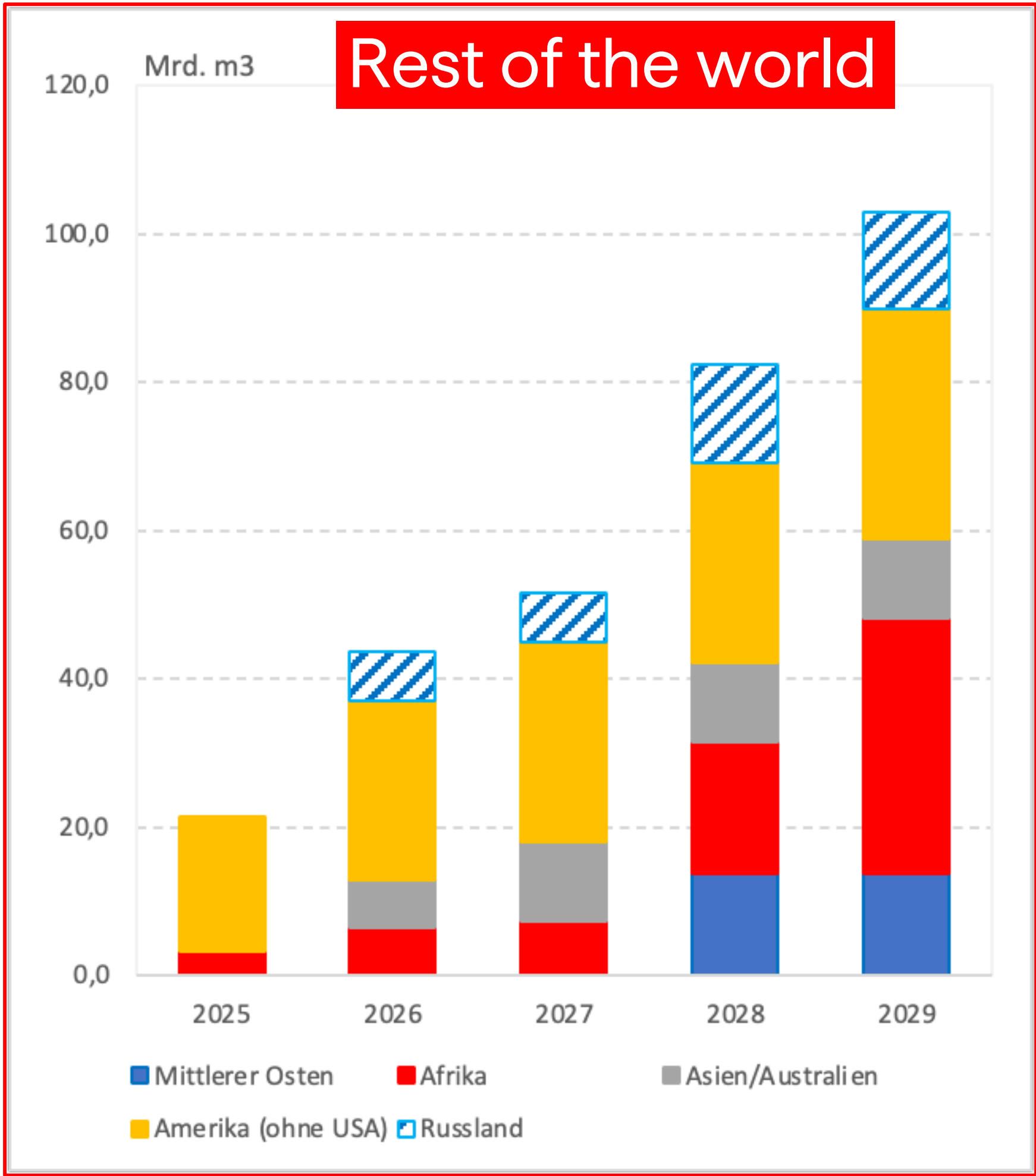
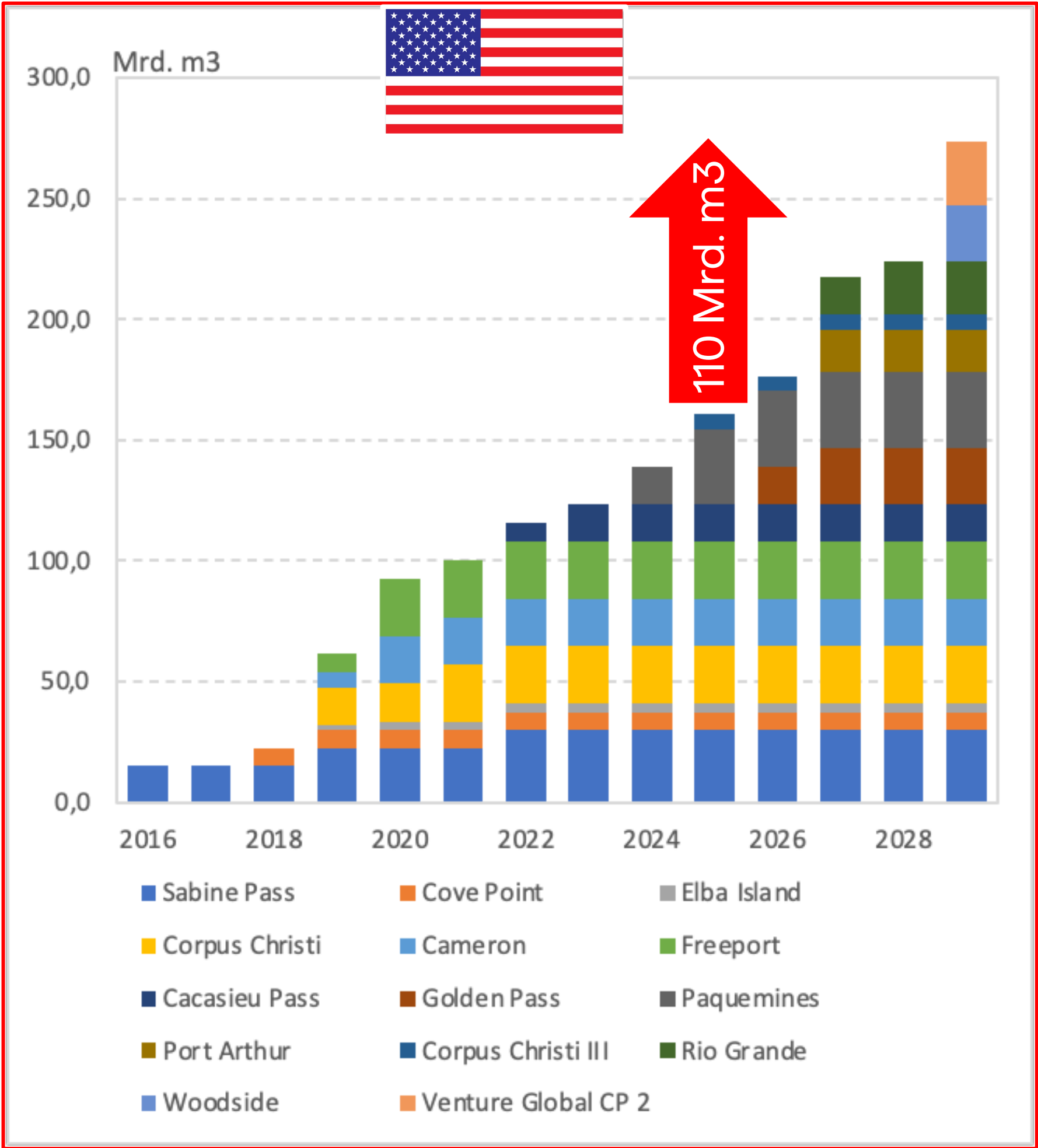


Source: EIA, Maritime Chokepoints

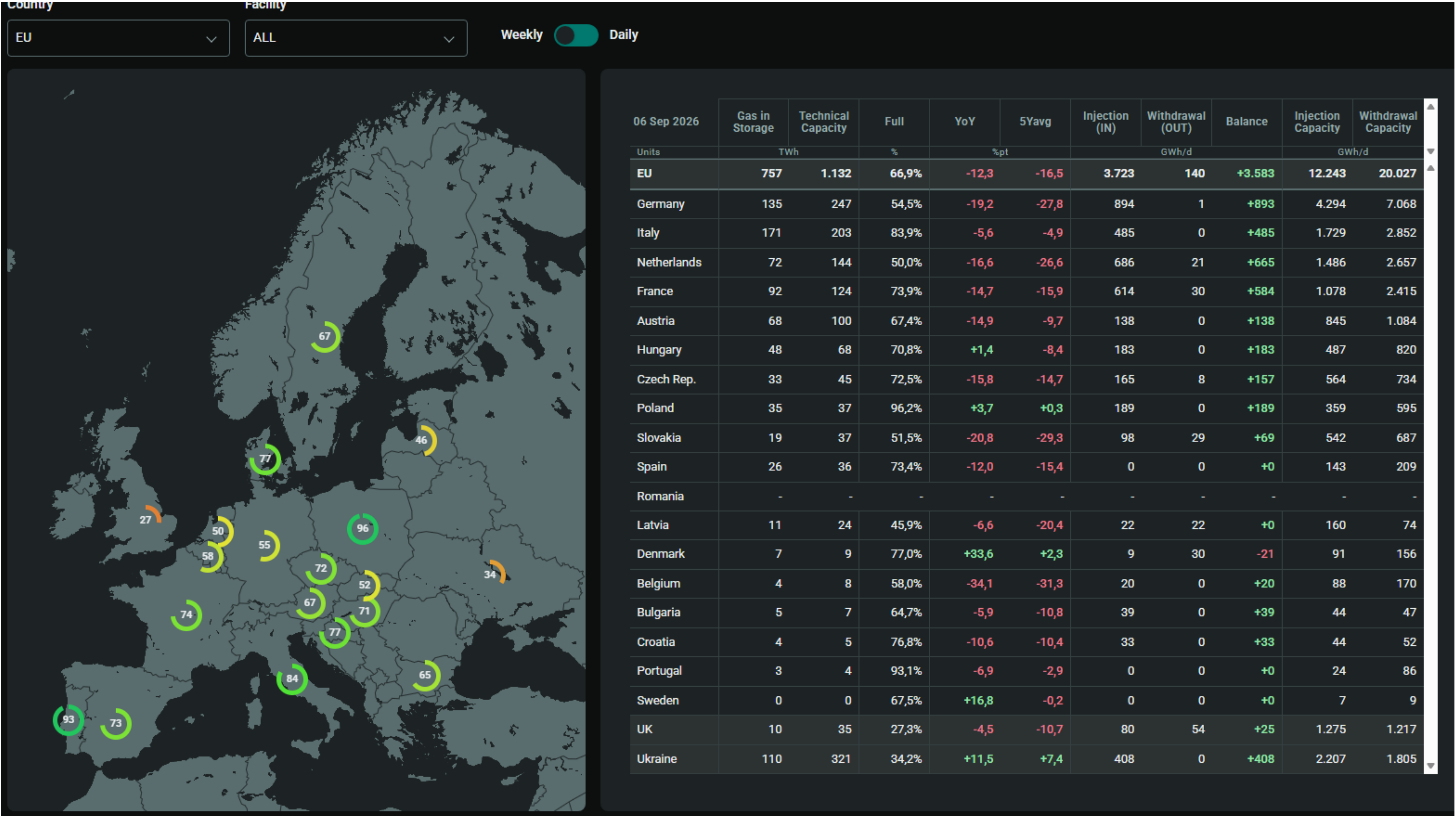


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) analysis, based on Vortexa tanker tracking; World Bank; and Panama Canal Authority data, using EIA conversion factors and calculations

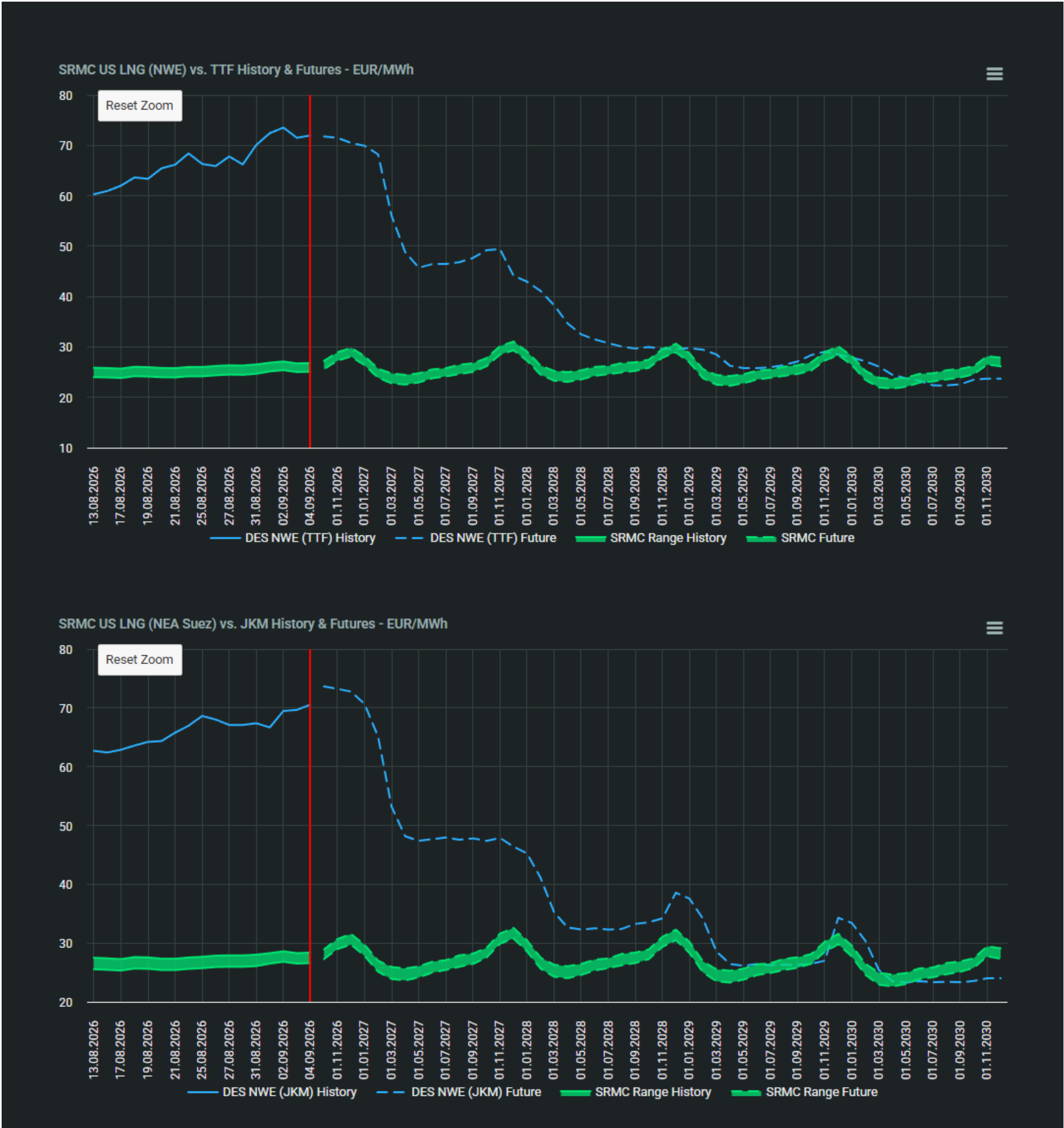
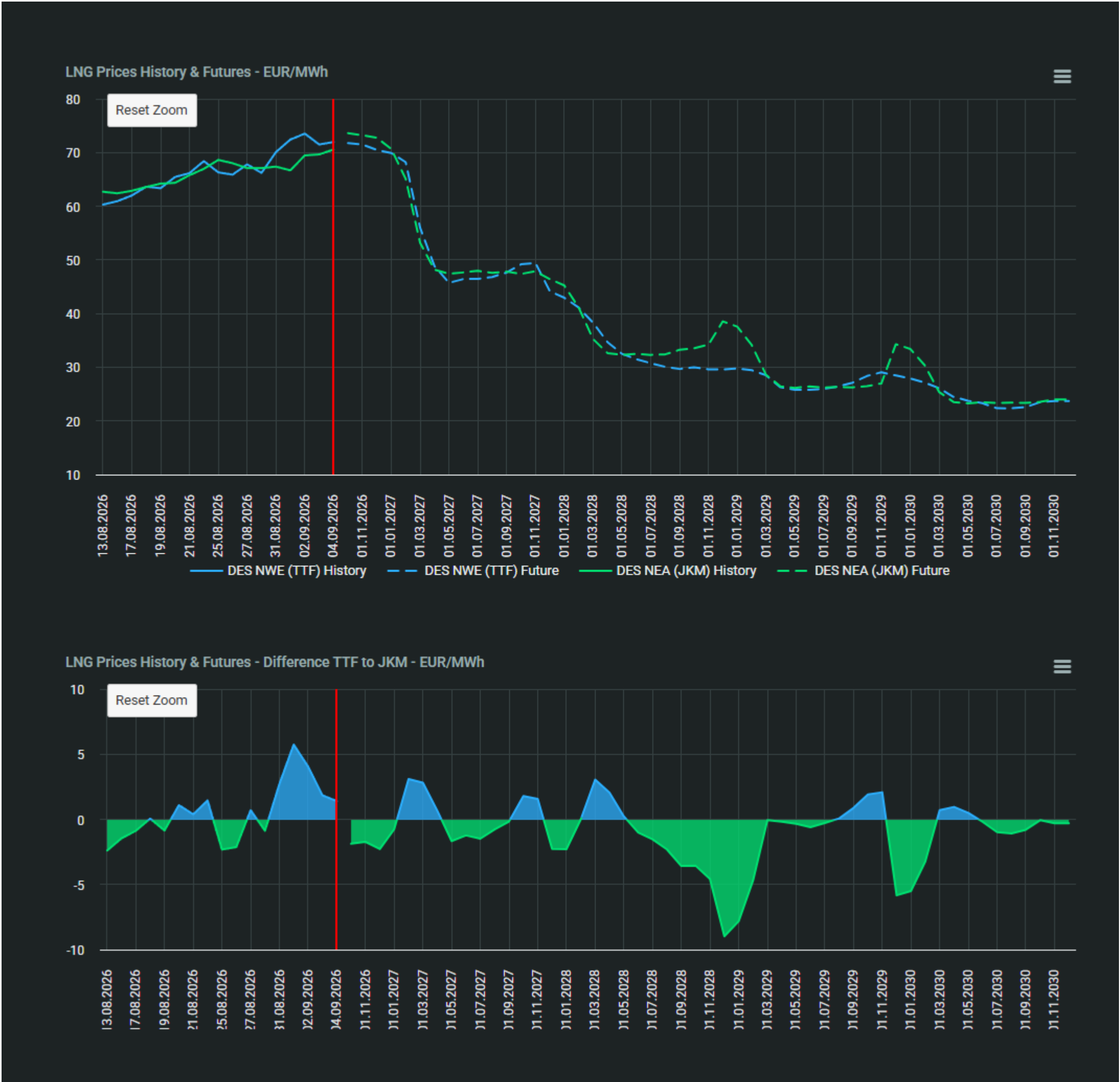
Is the market afraid ?



We don't have a volume risk, we have a price risk.



Natural Gas – a global market



The Berlin Brownout

5 days from 01/03 to 01/08/2026

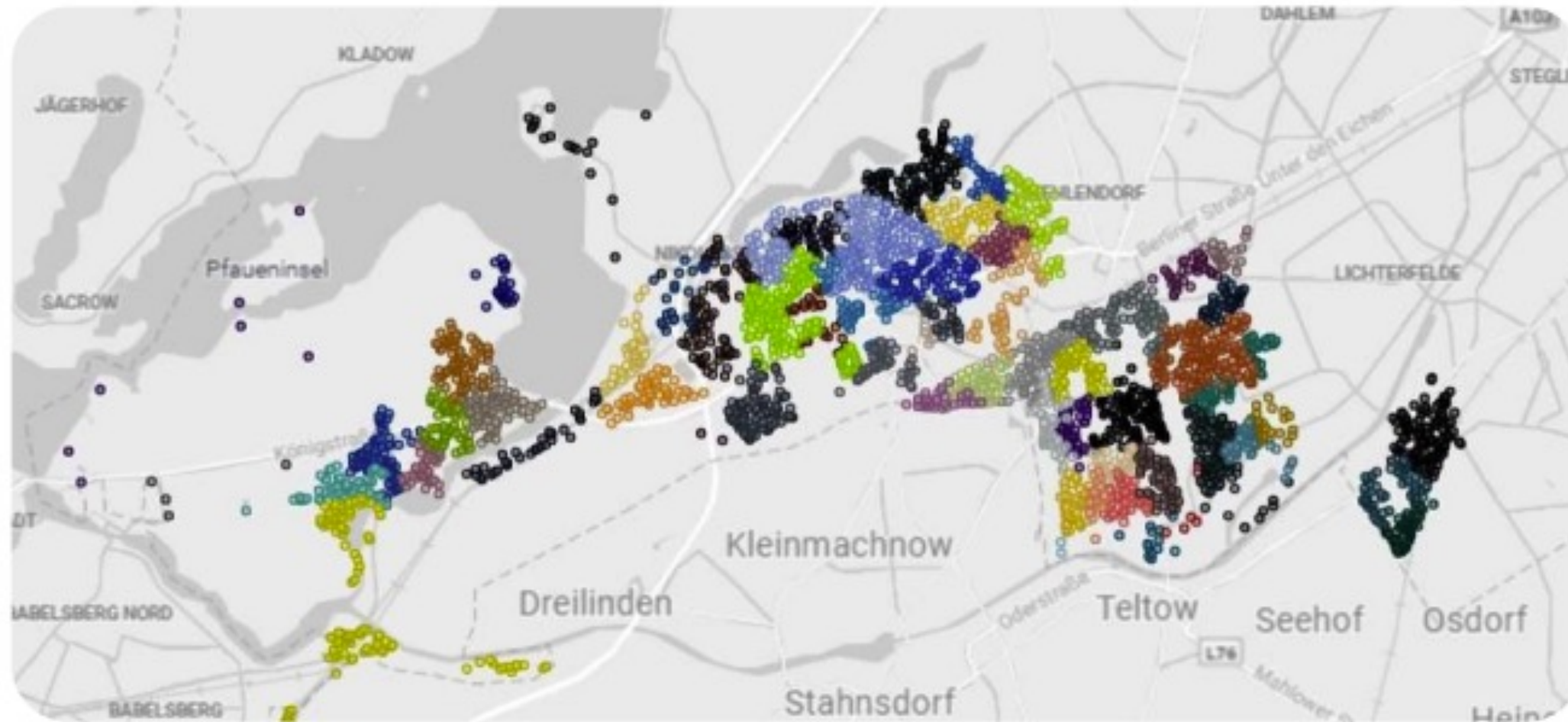


Photo: Stromnetz Berlin

Different levels of brownout/blackout.

Level 1: Only power

Level 2: + Mobile network connection

Level 3: + Natural gas pressure

Level 4: + Water outage

Final level: Nationwide blackout

Der Strommast, über den keiner spricht!



Die Bilder des Senders TGR Friuli Venezia Giulia sollen beweisen, dass es sich um einen Anschlag handelte. © TGR Friuli Venezia Giulia



Die Pipeline ist seit 1967 in Betrieb und transportiert Rohöl vom Hafen in Triest nach Deutschland, Österreich und in die Tschechische Republik. (tg1)

Quiet, long-term attempt to undermine inner stability

Demoralization

Systematic erosion of shared values, assumptions about reality, and trust

Information control, cultural influence, disinformation, and deliberate destabilization of confidence

Information overload, polarization, and the gradual delegitimization of media and expertise

Energy as a strategic lever: pipeline gas (especially from Russia) creates vulnerabilities, shapes public sentiment, and drives political dependencies

Societies become more susceptible to external influence; demoralization can turn into destabilization.

Moral destabilization

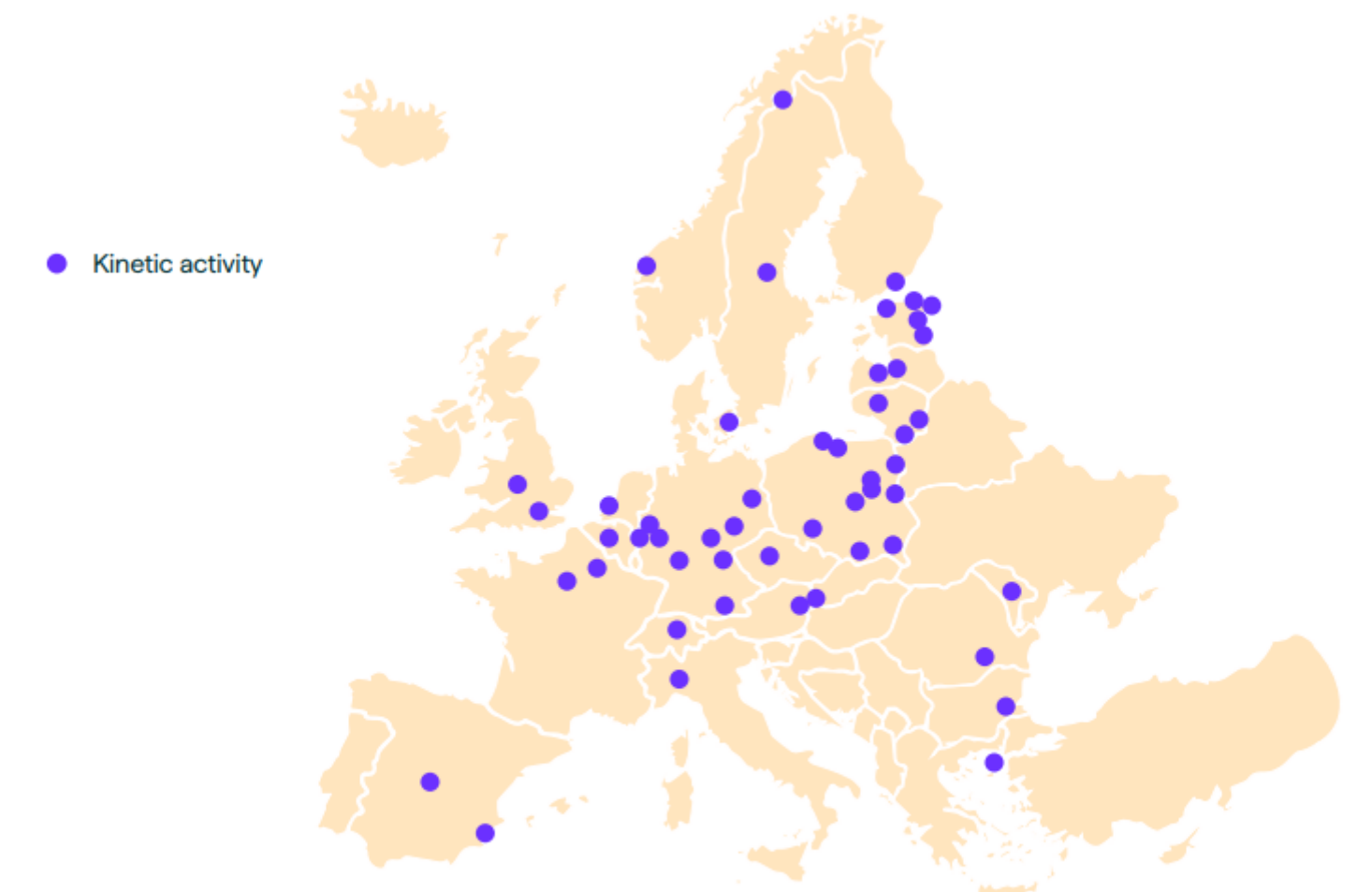
Deliberate exploitation of existing weaknesses: Economic, political, and institutional vulnerabilities are intentionally amplified to undermine functionality.

Escalation of social conflicts: Issues that are already polarized are further radicalized.

Creation of acute uncertainty: Price shocks, supply bottlenecks, or administrative overload create a climate of hectic, reactive policymaking.

Attacks on critical infrastructure: Energy, communications, logistics, and public administration are put under stress through disruptions, pressure, or artificial scarcity.

Kinetic destabilization



Map of Russian Kinetic Activities in Europe (2022-2025)
Source: International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) and GLOBSEC "Russia's Crime Terror Nexus"

Explosives close to power plants and other things

ELECTRICITY | GERMANY

Suspected energy attacks “climate extremism” – German minister

(Montel) Last week’s series of suspected sabotage attempts on German energy infrastructure were acts of “climate extremism”, with police searching for a 48-year-old man in connection with the attacks, the government said.

By: Christian Driessen
7.9.2026 | 07:31



The man was not found at his home, where police discovered “items suspected of containing explosives”, added North Rhine-Westphalia interior minister Herbert Reul told a joint press conference.

The author of letters claiming responsibility cited “the fight against fossil fuels” as a motive.

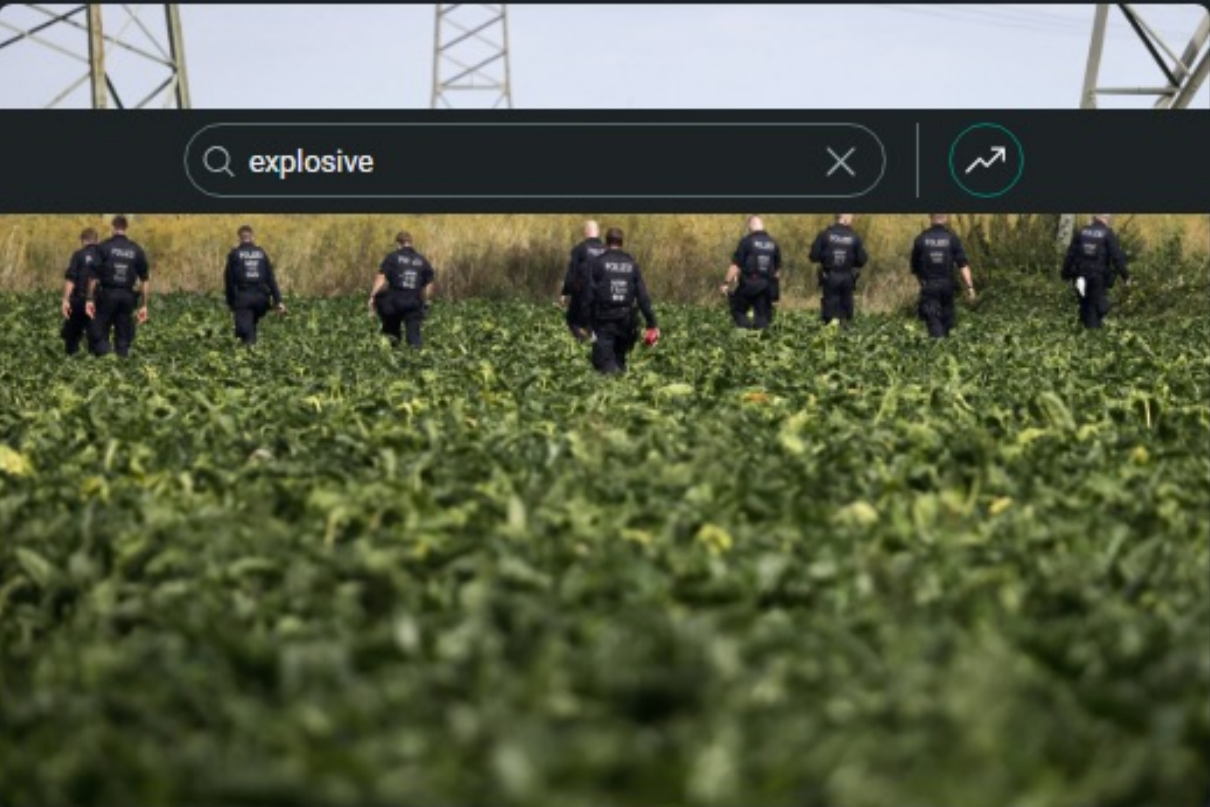
Police believed the letters were authentic and were investigating the case as [anti-constitutional sabotage](#), added Reul.

ELECTRICITY | GERMANY

German police investigate suspected sabotage at 3rd substation

(Montel) German police found “a suspicious object” in a possible act of sabotage at a substation in Dormagen, western Germany, German media reported on Friday, following two other incidents that forced lignite-fired power units offline on Tuesday.

By: Kristin Schneider
4.9.2026 | 07:43



Police search the area around a substation near Cologne, Germany, 2 September 2026. Photo: Christoph Hardt/Imago/NTB

“So far, no damage has occurred. It is also not yet clear whether the object would have been capable of causing harm,” Claudia Suthor, police spokeswoman for Rhein-Kreis Neuss near Dusseldorf, told German newspaper WDR.

A letter claiming responsibility surfaced overnight. It was from a man in Gevelsberg, western Germany, and named further possible targets, WDR reported.

Police planned to search other substations near the Weisweiler and the Dormagen areas, both located in the western German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and were checking whether the letter claim was genuine, according

ELECTRICITY | GERMANY

German police find explosives near 1.5 GW lignite plant

(Montel) Explosive devices were found at the Turnow-Preilack substation in Eastern Germany near the 1.5 GW Leag lignite power plant in the municipality of Jaenschwalde, German media reported on Tuesday afternoon.

By: Kristin Schneider
1.9.2026 | 15:23

A damage to a line was reported at about 08:00 CET, police spokeswoman Stefanie Pilz told Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb).

Several explosive and incendiary devices were discovered at the Preilack substation, the police said. They added they were taking the incident “very seriously” and were working to defuse the devices.

There had been at least one detonation, a spokeswoman for the Potsdam police headquarters told news agency AFP.

TSO 50Hertz told rbb that power supply had not been cut. There was a short interruption to a line, but all lines were back in operation, it said.

The incident comes after a five-day power outage in [Berlin](#) in January that affected 45,000 households in the city’s most severe outage since the Second World War. Radical group Vulkangruppe later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Germany is still behind or maybe naive ?

Austria

MILITARY

- Regular blackout drills incl. largest garrison (Götzendorf)
- Backup power for radio relay stations tested & upgraded
- Active civil-military cooperation with hospitals & municipalities
- Court of Audit (2025): gaps found, publicly acknowledged & addressed

POLICE

- Control rooms have backup power protocols in place
- TETRA Tetron radio — partially backed by generators
- Coordinated under national SKKM crisis framework

FIRE SERVICES

- Decentralised volunteer structure — strong local self-sufficiency
- Many firehouses have own generators & local supply networks

Germany

MILITARY

- Focus on foreign deployments for decades — domestic resilience neglected
- No uniform blackout standard across Bundesländer
- Recovery underway since ~2022 (Zeitenwende)
- Correctiv Jan 2026: large gaps remain in state-level emergency plans

POLICE

- TETRA BOS network — backup power not uniformly guaranteed
- No binding national crisis plan — each federal state decides independently
- Länder have own concepts; quality varies significantly

FIRE SERVICES

- Strong urban–rural gap in generator availability
- BBK recommendations are non-binding for Bundesländer

Russia is active

- **Sabotage** Russia has been accused of orchestrating multiple sabotage operations, including damaging or severing CUI in the Baltic Sea, planting a series of explosive packages on cargo aircraft, and committing arson.[...] In August 2026, a drone collided with an aircraft and another drone carrying explosives was discovered at Leipzig/Halle Airport in Germany, a major center for Ukrainian and NATO logistics..[...] There have been particular concerns that Russia has been involved in both cutting undersea telecommunication and energy cables in the Baltic Sea and mapping locations of other CUI for possible sabotage operations.
- **Assassinations.** [...] The murders of former Chechen rebel commander Zelimkhan Khangoshvili in Germany in 2019 and Russian defector Maksim Kuzminov in Spain in February 2024, and planned assassinations of Armin Papperger, the CEO of German defense firm Rheinmetall .[...]
- **Cyberattacks.** In addition to cyber espionage, which exploits cyberspace in order to gain access to sensitive data, Russia allegedly has carried out cyberattacks and other malicious cyber operations against critical infrastructure, governments, and essential services (including an April 2025 cyberattack on a Norwegian dam resulting in the opening of floodgates and a December 2025 cyberattack against 30 energy facilities in Poland).⁶⁰ Russian cyber actors also reportedly have sought to penetrate infrastructure and government networks, possibly in preparation for sabotage and targeted attacks on logistics networks used for transporting foreign assistance to Ukraine.
- **Airspace Violations.** In 2025 and 2026, Russia reportedly engaged in airspace violations of NATO countries, including with drones and fighter aircraft. .[...]
- **GPS Jamming.** Russia has been accused of conducting GPS jamming in key air and maritime spaces.⁶⁵ Since 2022, officials of NATO states neighboring Russia have accused Russia of interfering with aircraft navigation in the Baltic Sea region by jamming GPS signals.
- **Election/Political Interference and Influence Operations.** Russia has been suspected of conducting numerous election and political interference operations. European officials have accused Russia of engaging in information manipulation to influence campaigns; corrupting European politicians; and conducting illicit campaign financing in multiple European countries, including France, Germany, Poland, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Moldova.⁶⁷
- **Weaponized Migration.** A 2024 EU policy document described weaponized migration as a hybrid warfare tactic "whereby Russia and Belarus artificially and illegally facilitate illegal migration flows toward the EU's external borders ... with the objective of destabilising our societies and undermining the unity of the European Union." Since 2021, tens of thousands of migrants, primarily individuals from or transiting Middle Eastern countries, have traveled to Russia and Belarus and have subsequently attempted to enter the EU illegally through Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Finland.

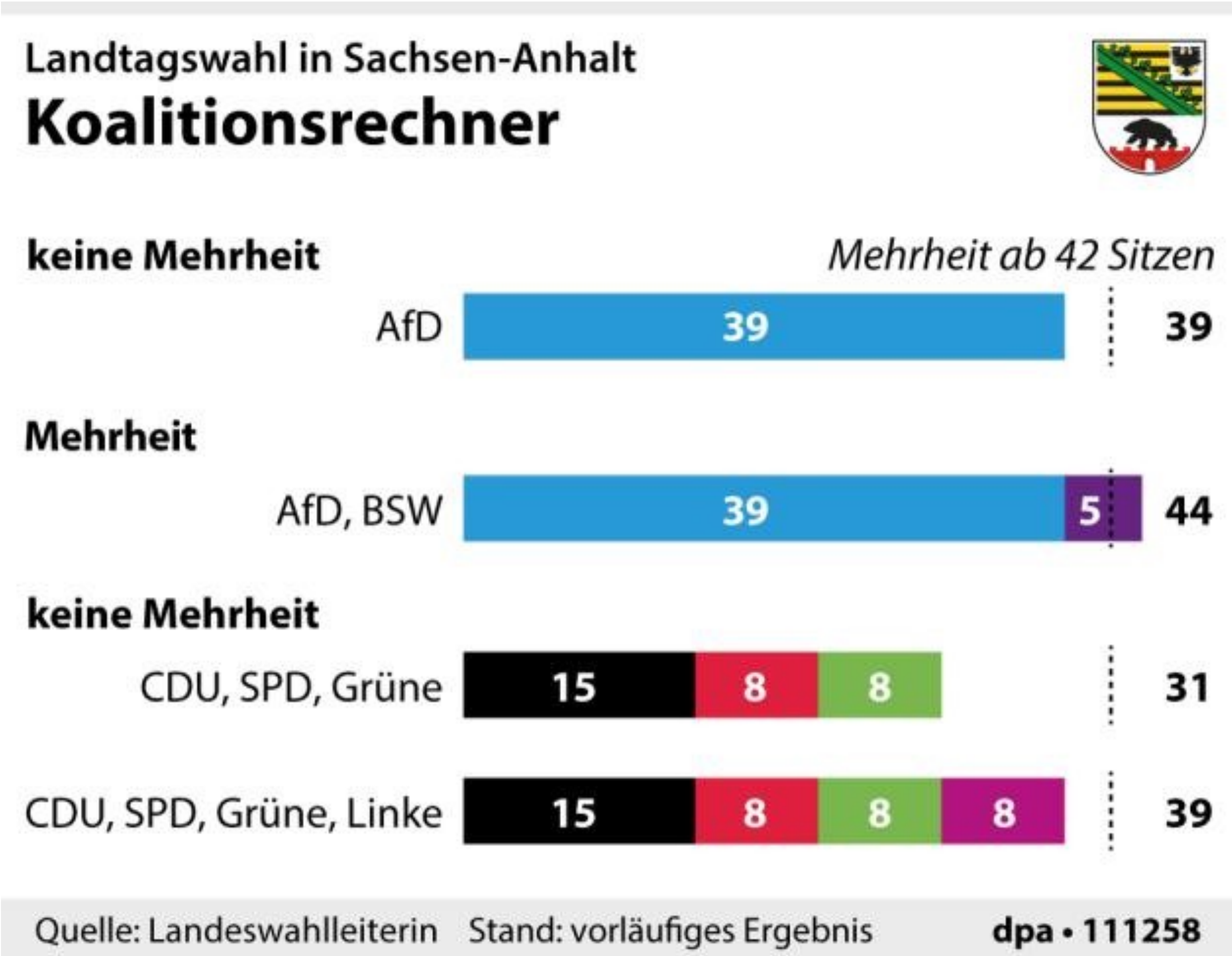
Selected Suspected Russian Hybrid Warfare Attacks in Europe, 2018-2025



Source: Russian Hybrid Warfare Activities in Europe: Considerations for Congress (2026), <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R49134>. from the 11th of August 2026

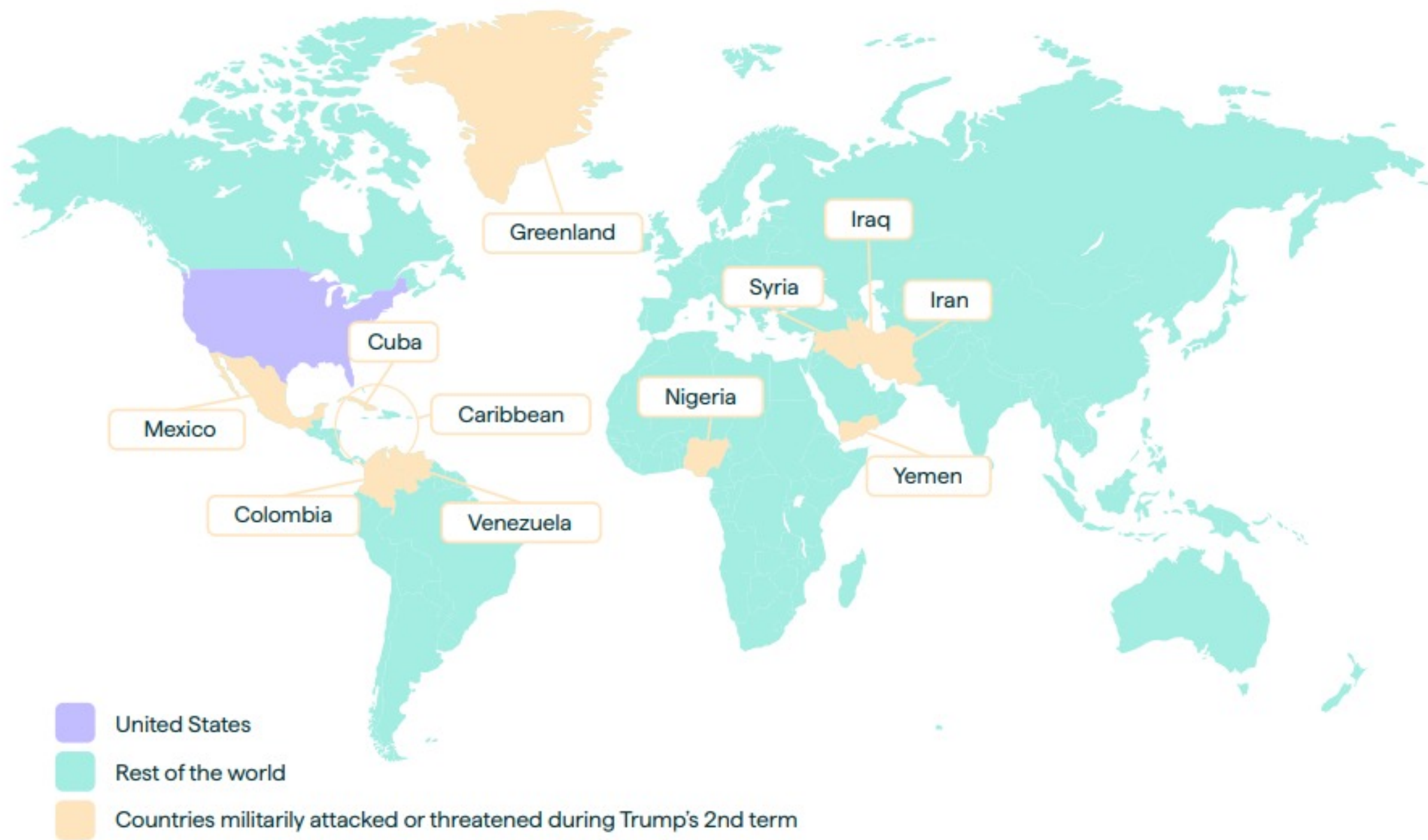
Not happening?

- The far right party could make a coalition with the far left party
- Both are not only Russia friendly
- Most likely they are financed by Russia
- And they will send information on critical infrastructure to Moskow



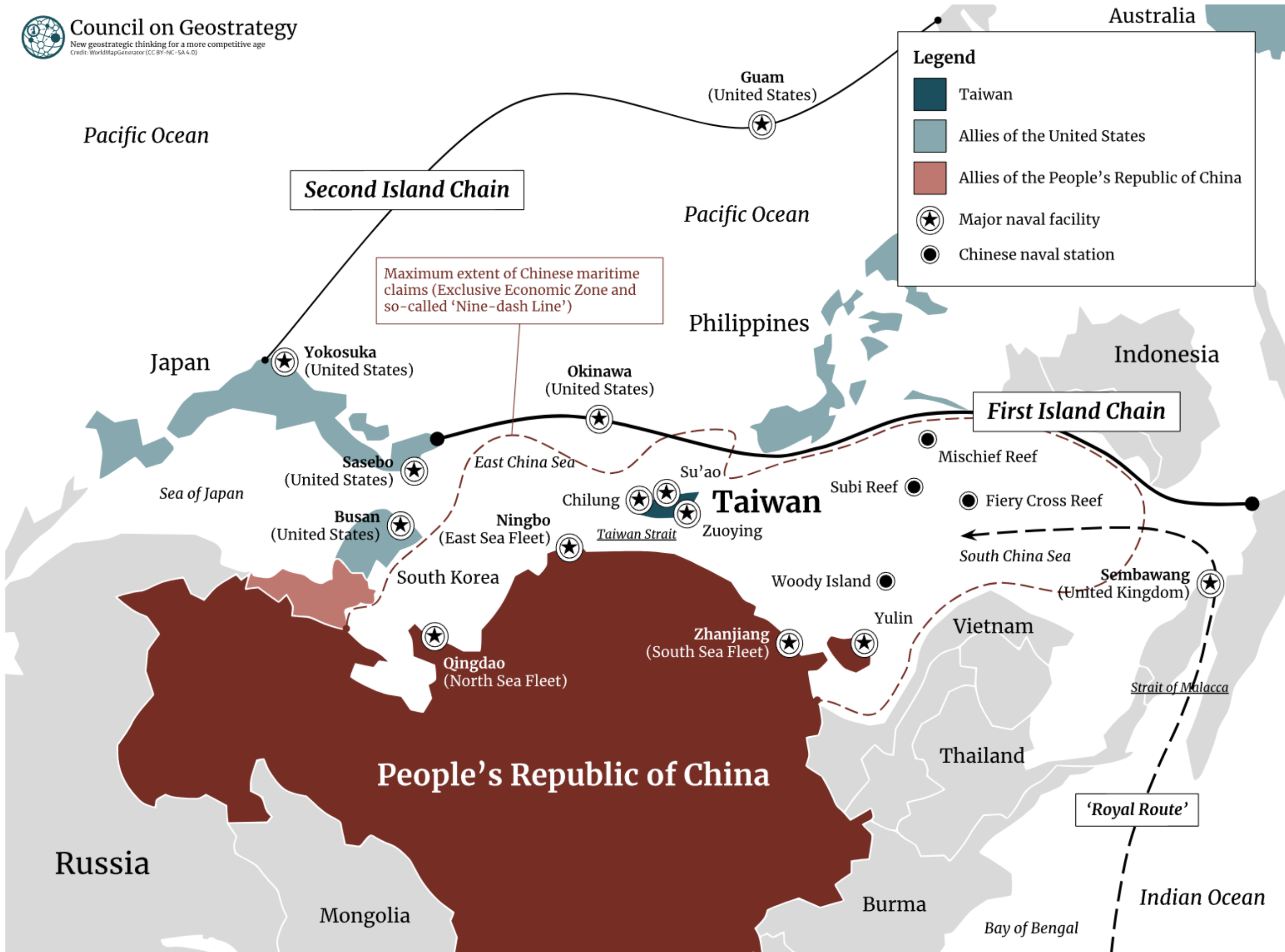
Are we only at the beginning?

Trump’s threats so far



Beginning of World War III?

If China becomes active in Taiwan now, then...



Fragen? Fragen!

Vielen Dank

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