National Coordinator for
Counterterrorism and Security
Ministry of Justice and Security

The Critical National Infrastructure Threat Landscape

Understanding the accumulation of increasing and changing threats

The Netherlands' critical infrastructure faces an accumulation of diverse, increasing and changing threats which can lead to disruptions or failures of critical processes. This, in turn, may pose a threat to the continuity of these processes and therefore to national security. This threat landscape report provides an overview of the main threats to critical infrastructure and an insight into recent developments in relation to those threats.

The report distinguishes between three different threats.

- **Deliberate threats**, for example physical sabotage by means of explosives or arson and jamming or spoofing of GPS signals in the aviation and maritime transport sectors.
- **Natural threats**, such as extreme precipitation, leading to electricity and transport outages, or extreme drought which restricts inland shipping and leaves chemical industries short of process and cooling water.
- **The disruption of critical processes themselves**, based on evidence in recent years that human or system failures can, for example, bring transport and healthcare to a standstill.

In addition, various **political, economic, social and technological (PEST)** factors affect the critical infrastructure itself, as well as the threats to it and its resilience.

Examples

Incidents involving explosive air cargo packages in Europe, presumably by the Russian GRU

Western countries hold Russia responsible for carrying out, or attempting to carry out, attacks and sabotage in several places in Europe in recent years. In some cases, sub-processes of critical sectors were also targeted. In 2024 there were, for example, several incidents involving parcels containing explosives at air cargo transfer points in Poland, Germany and the UK. According to various Western intelligence agencies, the Russian military intelligence service (GRU) was behind them.

Brief infrastructure outages as a result of extreme precipitation in southern Limburg

In recent years, extreme precipitation in several European countries led to, among other things, power cuts, public transport shutdowns and airport closures. One example is the extreme rainfall in July 2021 in southern Limburg and in the Ardennes and Eifel regions where a major weather system caused waterlogging and flooding. Locally more than 160 mm of precipitation fell in 48 hours in southern Limburg. More than 250 mm fell in 48 hours in some locations in the Ardennes and the Eifel regions. In other countries there were 200 casualties and prolonged outages of essential services such as electricity and transport. In the Netherlands, localised infrastructure temporarily failed and was damaged. At some locations it took six months to rectify the damage.