

Probe into Damage of Finland-Estonia Pipeline Turns to HK Vessel

Finland's police have said it was unlikely an explosion was the cause of the damage to a gas pipeline between Finland and Estonia as their investigation shifts focus to the potential role of a Hong Kong-flagged vessel.

The Finnish National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has now completed the "scene investigation" in the area of Balticconnector, which has been shut down after a damage-induced leak first reported by the state-owned co-owners October 8.

"The investigation has confirmed that the damage has been caused by an external mechanical force, and based on current knowledge there is no reason to believe the damage has been caused by an explosion", Detective Superintendent Risto Lohi, general head of investigation at the NBI, said in a press release by the police agency on Friday.

The news release said, "The police have established in the criminal investigation that the movements of the vessel Newnew Polar Bear flying the flag of Hong Kong coincide with the time and place of the gas pipeline damage".

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