



# Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

## Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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582/22

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30 November 2023

### **PRESS RELEASE No 14/23**

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) has published the Interim Investigation Report No. 582/22 on 30 November 2023. The report provides information on the subject, the course and the current state of the investigation and is available for download at

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications_node.html)

#### **Serious Marine Casualty**

#### **Allision of a mobile harbour crane, transported on the heavy-lift vessel MERI, with two overhead road bridge constructions crossing the Kiel Canal on 30 November 2022**

At the end of November 2022, the Finnish-flagged heavy-lift vessel MERI was transporting a mobile harbour crane from Rostock to Esbjerg, a port on the Danish North Sea coast. The Kiel Canal was determined to be the best possible route. Based on the relevant documents, the ship and its cargo had a permissible height to safely pass the overhead bridge constructions on the Kiel Canal.

However, while passing the first overhead road bridges, the Holtenauer Hochbrücken, the tower tip of the mobile harbour crane hit the box girders of both bridges. The consequences were considerable. In particular, the ship was damaged and the loaded crane destroyed. The two bridges were so structurally damaged that both bridges had to be repeatedly closed. The Prinz Heinrich Bridge, one of the two bridges, has been closed for maintenance work since 4 September 2023.

The investigation into the accident has since been completed and the BSU is currently in the process of compiling the investigation report. Because the one-year deadline for publication, set by the European Union and adopted as national law by the Federal

Republic of Germany, cannot be met, the public is informed about the status of the investigations into this serious marine accident by means of the publication of an interim investigation report.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations as well as other publications of the BSU are available for download at

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte_node.html)

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