



Berlin names Russia; DNA names two men, and neither is in custody

A state attribution on 1 September, a forensic identification the day after. No arrests, no charges.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who A Russian-born man with a Latvian passport, reported as logistician and instructor, and a Belarusian with a Russian passport whose DNA is on the charge. Neither is charged.

What German attribution of the 4 August attack to Russia, and the identification of two suspects by DNA in reporting from the federal investigation.

Where Leipzig/Halle Airport. Entry through Berlin Brandenburg and, for the second man, a Schengen visa issued in Minsk.

When Attribution 1 September; identification reported 2 September.

Why Dobrindt: the investigations, the pattern and intelligence findings prove a Russian responsibility. Moscow denies it.

How DNA from one of the drones, from inside an explosive-filled tin, and from an antenna near the airport. Matches from Lithuanian and Finnish records.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

4 Aug Drone and charge on the apron

11 Aug DNA linked to the 2024 parcel fire

1 Sep German attribution to Russia

1 Late Jul - suspect one flies into Berlin

2 He drives to Leipzig; leaves two days before

3 4 Aug - the charge is found on the apron

4 Mid-Aug - federal prosecutors open on both men

5 1 Sep - Berlin attributes the attack to Russia

6 2 Sep - DNA identification reported

IMPACT

- Russian consulate in Bonn to close from 18 September; the Russian House in Berlin to follow; the ambassador summoned.
- Tighter entry controls for Russian nationals, and EU pressure for visa restrictions and further sanctions listings.
- Italy drawn in over the tourist visa issued in Minsk. Tajani says Italy will establish why it was granted.
- The evidentiary basis for the attribution is now forensic as well as political, which is harder to dismiss.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Highly likely this was an operation directed by Russian state entities - a government attribution now sits on top of a forensic chain.
- An attribution and an identification are different findings. The names reach the public through journalism, not a charge sheet.
- Unlikely either man is arrested while he stays out of reach; a realistic possibility that charges in absentia follow.
- The control that failed was consular, not perimeter. A visa issued in April carried a man to a working apron in August.