Air Defense: Italy and Switzerland Together in the Skies for the "Ferrari-I" Exercise

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On **March 25, 2026**, the bilateral exercise **"Ferrari-I 26-01"** took place, the first event of the year dedicated to strengthening operational cooperation between Italy and Switzerland in the **Air Policing** sector. The activity tested the Command and Control chain of the two countries, simulating air threat scenarios arising from non-military aircraft.

The main objective was to validate common procedures to ensure a rapid and integrated response in case of airspace violations or emergency situations requiring handover between different nations.

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The Scenario: The "Renegade" Alert

The exercise began with a simulated critical situation:

- **The Target:** A **P-180 aircraft of the 14° Stormo**, taking off from Pratica di Mare, simulated a total loss of radio communications and an unjustified deviation from the planned route.
- **The Threat:** The aircraft's behavior triggered procedures for a **Renegade** event (civil aircraft used as a potential threat).
- **The Scramble:** The **National Air and Space Operations Centre (NASOC)** in Poggio Renatico ordered the immediate takeoff (*scramble*) of two **Eurofighter F-2000** fighters from the 51° Stormo of Istrana, on permanent alert duty (QRA).

Tactical Coordination and the "Handover"

The tactical management of the interception was entrusted to the units of the **Integrated Missile Air Defense (DAMI)**:

1. **22° DAMI Group of Licola (BARCA)**
2. **11° DAMI Group of Poggio Renatico (PIOPPO)**

The most complex moment of the exercise concerned the **Cross-Border**: when the target aircraft headed towards Swiss airspace, it was necessary to coordinate the transfer of

operational responsibility with the **Air Defence and Direction Center (ADDC)** in Dubendorf. At this stage, Swiss authorities took over the management of the interception, confirming the perfect interoperability between the defense systems of the two countries.

> *The 11° DAMI Group and the 22° DAMI Group operate daily under the **Aerospace Control Brigade** to ensure the surveillance of Italian skies, constantly integrating with NATO's air defense system.*

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Conclusions

The "Ferrari-I 26-01" exercise confirmed the effectiveness of communication and identification procedures between Italy and Switzerland. In an increasingly complex international context, the ability to act synergistically with neighboring partners is not only a technical necessity but a fundamental pillar for the collective security of European airspace.

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