



Between a faltering U.S. umbrella and political paralysis: the existential challenge facing Italian defense

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At a time of profound global geopolitical instability, the article by **Lucio Caracciolo** in ***la Repubblica*** lays bare one of the most serious challenges facing our country: **Italian politics' inability to confront the real security and defense challenges.**

The geopolitical expert's analysis highlights how Italy risks slipping into yet another permanent election campaign, taking its eyes off the crisis theaters close to the country's southern and eastern borders.

Key Points of the Analysis

1. **The vulnerability of the national security framework:** The conflicts underway along Italy's strategic axes not only threaten maritime and commercial corridors vital to the economy, but also raise direct questions about the country's defense posture. **Dependence**

on the U.S. security umbrella has clear limits, since Washington has repeatedly made clear that allied support is driven first and foremost by its own strategic choices and requirements. Furthermore, hosting U.S. and allied military installations on national territory entails systemic risks in the event of escalation in Middle Eastern or Eurasian theaters.

2. **The crisis affecting European partners and the industrial base:** The leading players in European defense and the economy (Germany, France, and the United Kingdom) are grappling with severe domestic crises and particularistic pressures. The slowdown or contraction of German industry — closely integrated with Italy's manufacturing and defense sectors — risks having direct repercussions on our country's industrial and strategic capabilities.
3. **The absence of a diplomatic and deterrent initiative:** According to Caracciolo, the most serious shortcoming lies in having abandoned the pursuit of an effective diplomatic initiative, guided by a clear national security vision. While being directly exposed to developments on the Russian-Ukrainian front and in the Mediterranean area, Italy appears to act without either an independent deterrent capability or a crisis-management strategy.
4. **Demographic structure and national resilience: Institutional inertia and the tendency to postpone structural decisions clash with critical indicators:** population decline, population aging, and the erosion of social cohesion, factors that negatively affect recruitment potential, military readiness, and the nation's overall resilience.

Considerations for Defense and Security

For observers, the warning sounded by Caracciolo underscores a central point: **national security and the readiness of the defense apparatus cannot be treated as secondary issues or matters of political propaganda. Without structural reforms, targeted investment in the defense industrial base, and credible diplomatic action, the country risks finding itself unprepared to confront the rapid changes in modern warfare scenarios.**