Crosetto, a Minister Who Speaks Like a Soldier: Straight to the Point.

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November 4, 2025, a straightforward speech, devoid of rhetoric, as is rarely heard in politics.

The Minister of Defense **Guido Crosetto** speaks as a man of the institutions, but with the frankness of someone who knows the military world well.

In front of the **Joint Operational Command (COVI)**, Crosetto charted the course:

"Defense must have efficiency as its guiding principle. We must not sacrifice the necessary capacity standards on the altar of inclusion."

Minister Crosetto with President Sergio Mattarella

A true Defense reform is needed

For the minister, law 244 of 2012 – which sets the military personnel limit at 170,000 units – is now outdated.

> *We must throw away law 244. The spirit with which it was born is dead. Personnel must be increased and made more efficient.*

Crosetto indeed believes that the current threshold is not compatible with today's operational needs.

> *We need **30,000 more units**, we must reach **200,000 military personnel**. The Germans have about 280,000. And it will take **6 or 7 years for an air defense minimally comparable to that of Israel**.*

An ambitious goal, which fits into the perspective of a **stronger and more interoperable national Defense** with European and NATO allies.

Strade Sicure has run its course

Crosetto announces the intention to end the *Strade Sicure* operation:

> *When I think that 6,800 military personnel across Italy are on the streets, I believe it is time to **strengthen the Police Forces** and return the military to their original work. The operation was useful, but today it has run its course.*

A clear position: the military must return to focusing on **strategic security and defense**, not public order.

Military personnel deployed in the Strade Sicure operation - Copyright Italian Army

Efficiency before inclusion

One of the strongest parts of the speech concerns personnel selection.

> *The Armed Forces must be **efficient, not inclusive**. We must start talking about **requirements**. There cannot be a single selection system: those who go into Special Forces, those who pilot drones, or those who operate in the field must have different standards.*

A call for **meritocracy and operational functionality**, at a time when technological modernization imposes new professional profiles and new skills.

More attention to personnel well-being

The minister does not forget the human dimension of those who serve the Nation:

> *It is not possible for those transferred to Rome to fall into poverty because their salary is halved by rents*

Crosetto highlights the need for **housing and welfare policies dedicated** to military personnel, to ensure dignity and stability for those called to defend the country.

The Armed Forces will speak in Parliament

Finally, a symbolic but significant announcement:

> ***In Parliament, they will speak, the Armed Forces, not a deputy minister or a minister.*** *It is time for those who serve the State to have a direct voice in the reform process.*

A statement that sounds like a commitment: **to give true centrality and representation to the men and women in uniform**, protagonists of national security.

A return to the essence of the military function

With clear words and decisive tones, the Minister of Defense sends a message of change: **more efficiency, more personnel, less bureaucracy.**

A return to the essence of the military function: serving the Nation with competence, discipline, and pride.

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