



Crosetto to the BBC: "No more weakness toward Moscow; peace will come only when Putin reaches a stalemate"

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Rome – In an interview with the **BBC**, Italian Defense Minister **Guido Crosetto** strongly criticized the prospect of, or steps by, the U.S. administration led by **Donald Trump** aimed at **limiting Ukraine's access to satellite systems and intelligence information**. According to Crosetto, such restrictions are "**a total mistake, a huge mistake**" that risk **prolonging the Russian invasion** rather than helping to achieve peace.

Criticism of the Trump administration's approach

The defense minister warned that **reducing intelligence support to Kyiv** "**makes absolutely no sense**".

*"Peace will come when Putin is convinced that he has reached a stalemate, from which he can no longer advance", Crosetto explained from the Ministry headquarters in Rome. "If **Putin sees weakness on the Ukrainian side** — and depriving Ukraine of resources creates weakness — then **he will believe he can win and will continue the war**".*

U.S. officials downplayed reports of deliberate slowdowns of internet networks or the suspension of air-raid alerts. However, Crosetto's position comes amid **growing tensions between Rome and Washington**. Just a few days ago, Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** had described as **"very risky"** the deal signed by Trump to purchase diesel from Russia, stressing that such a move risks **"granting legitimacy to Russia"** even as it continues its bombardments.

Italian support and domestic political challenges

Despite public skepticism, the **Meloni government has maintained a policy of firm support for Ukraine**, sending both military and humanitarian aid. Crosetto reiterated that **military support will continue "for as long as this government remains in office"**.

However, the minister acknowledged that **securing parliamentary approval for new aid packages will become more difficult** as the general election (scheduled by the end of 2027) approaches. Political pressure is also growing from figures within the right-wing camp, such as **Roberto Vannacci** (who leads the *Futuro Nazionale* movement), **who opposes sending further weapons and resources to Kyiv**.

Responding to questions about Vannacci and his position, Crosetto dismissed the matter, saying he had **"more serious matters to deal with"**, reiterating a **clear condemnation of Russian aggression**:

*"When one state **crosses another state's borders with tanks**, when it **bombs hospitals and schools, kills civilians, and strikes power plants** for four years, I can describe all of this **only as evil**".*

Public opinion, disinformation, and cyber threats

Polls show that the **majority of Italians oppose continuing to send weapons** (a survey by the Istituto Ixè put **support at just 18%**). Among the causes are **rising energy prices**, the **cost of living**, **student and trucker protests**, as well as a deeply rooted pacifist tradition.

Crosetto also identified a **massive disinformation campaign conducted by Moscow** as a key factor:

- **Targeted disinformation:** Operations aimed at **influencing political figures and narratives** to weaken the anti-Russian political climate and sway public opinion.
- **Prices and public perception:** Crosetto noted how **difficult it is to explain to a citizen facing high fuel prices that no concessions can be made to Russia**, even though this is the only way to **defend that citizen's future**.
- **Cyber threats and incidents:** The minister clarified that the fire at a weapons depot near Rome **was not arson but the result of "human stupidity"**, nor has reporting on alleged drone attacks been substantiated. However, he confirmed **the existence of hundreds of daily cyberattacks attributed to Russia**, highlighting the need for a **more forceful European response: "You cannot win a war if you do not respond"**.