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Defense, clash in the majority: the real problem is Strategic Culture while the external threat is already knocking at the door

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The debate on military spending within the majority is not just another tug-of-war between parties. It is, first and foremost, a symptom of a deeper fragility: **many parliamentarians and parts of Italian politics do not have a true culture of Defense**, meaning they do not think in terms of deterrence, national interests, security chains, influence, and credibility.

The result is a discussion crushed on two words — “costs” and “coverage” — as if Defense were a luxury. In reality, in an unstable international context, **Defense is a system infrastructure**: if it holds, it protects trade, energy, supply chains, investments; if it falters, the risks trickle down to families and businesses.

The split: Palazzo Chigi and MEF aim for graduality

Within this framework, the political clash ignites over the path to increase spending: the MEF considers a gradual increase and European instruments; part of the majority argues that Italy must regain credibility and capability; **the Lega, however, sets boundaries**, fears the impact on the accounts, and pushes to focus on internal security, trying to avoid the idea of "rearmament" as a banner.

So far, normal dialectics. But the point is *why* it becomes explosive: because there is a lack of a shared basis on what "national security" means today.

Everything is connected: external security, influence, economy, work

Here lies the issue that often does not enter talks or parliamentary corridors: **if Italy is not credible on Defense, it is not credible even at the tables that matter**. And if you don't count, you suffer.

- If you don't weigh in alliances, **you have less voice** when negotiating dossiers that directly affect the economy (energy, trade routes, Mediterranean stability, industrial rules, investments).
- If you don't demonstrate reliability, **you attract less trust**: and trust also means the ability to "magnetize" opportunities — contracts, technological projects, industrial cooperations — that then become work and development.
- If your stance is uncertain, other partners see you as the weak link: **they listen to you less**, involve you less, respect you less.

In this sense, Defense is not separate from well-being: **it is the condition that makes it possible to protect and build well-being**.

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Migrants and instability: without an external shield, pressure increases

There is also another connection that Italian politics often treats as taboo: **migratory pressure is also a product of external instability**.
If the wider Mediterranean ignites and Italy cannot truly contribute to stability, deterrence, and crisis management (with military, diplomatic, and intelligence tools), the cost falls “at home”: more pressure on borders, more trafficking, more geopolitical blackmail, more emergencies.

It is not militarism: it is realism. A State that does not project capabilities, **ends up importing problems**.

The risk of “Little Italy”: provincial in tone, peripheral in fact

The paradox is that, while the world becomes tougher, in Italy there is a risk of returning to the old stance: **the provincial “Little Italy”** that tries to get by with statements and small adjustments, without a strategic vision.

And yet today the question is simple: do we want a country that *matters* — and therefore protects interests and citizens — or a country that *floats* and suffers? Because what changes is not just the spending: **it is Italy's international status**.

Conclusion: the real mediation is not between parties, but between past and present

The majority can also find a numerical compromise. But the real challenge is cultural: **understanding that the external threat is not an abstract concept** and that security, economy, and credibility are a single circuit.

Without an external shield, influence is reduced; without influence, opportunities and stability decrease; without stability, social costs and internal tensions increase.

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