Defense: if you've built it over time, you have it; if not, you need to ask for help

Published on 04/03/2026

Now, suddenly, everyone is asking: **“what if a missile comes from Iran?”**. **Are we within range?** Do we have coverage? Do we have interceptors?
But this question, precisely because it is so urgent, also reveals another truth: **if you only ask it when the crisis is already underway, it's already too late**.

Let this be a lesson: **defense is not a switch you turn on when you're scared**. It's a system that requires years: radar, command and control, training, stockpiles, integration with allies. When the threat rises, nothing is improvised.

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The practical confirmation: “they asked us for help”

In these hours, Defense Minister **Guido Crosetto** explained that **the Gulf countries have asked for help**, particularly in **air defense, missile defense, and anti-drone**.
It is the most concrete demonstration of the principle: **when you need the shield, you either have it already deployed or you have to ask someone else for it**—hoping they have it available and can afford to move it.

And here lies the point: when the demand comes simultaneously from multiple areas and for multiple crises, availability becomes political, logistical, industrial. It's not enough to “want it”: you need to have it.

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The European issue: we are not swimming in gold

Then there's the uncomfortable part, which must be said with the same clarity: **even those who receive requests for help do not have infinite warehouses**. Crosetto hinted that we are not in a phase of abundance: systems are few, expensive, and in demand everywhere.
So the moral is simple and harsh:

- **defense must be prepared beforehand**, not afterwards;
- if you haven't built it, **you end up depending on others**;
- and if others can't, **you remain exposed**.

And above all: this is not an “ideological dispute”. Those who claim that **it can be postponed** or that “it's not needed anyway” often do so for **political convenience, propaganda, or short-term calculation**. But the consequences fall on reality: **defenseless, infrastructure hit, civilians in danger**.
The lesson, therefore, is clear: **less arrogance, more preparation**. Because when the alarm comes, it's not about being right in a talk show: it's about having a shield.