



General Masiello sets the course - Enough barracks handovers, national security comes first

Published on 22/09/2026

The recent announcement by the **Chief of Staff of the Army, General Carmine Masiello**, regarding the **freeze on future transfers and exchanges of military real estate** represents a fundamental turning point. In a local political context accustomed to managing state real estate assets as a resource to be acquired and rapidly converted, the decision to **freeze the remaining assets** stands out for its **foresight**, prioritizing **strategic security** over territorial pressures.



The turning point between major agreements and the change of course

General Masiello's intervention took place on the sidelines of important institutional developments, including the symbolic handover of the keys to the **Rossi Barracks in Merano** to Provincial President Arno Kompatscher by Masiello himself and the director of the State Property Agency Alessandra Dal Verme. This specific operation unlocks a vast area of approximately **thirty hectares** (valued at **38 million euros**), destined to be transformed into a new district and to host youth activities, while the **former magistrate's office** (with the attached old prison on Via delle Corse) will provide a new headquarters and modern accommodations for police precinct officers. In Brunico, moreover, restoration work on the Lugramani barracks was inaugurated.

However, precisely in conjunction with the closure of these historic agreements — initiated as early as 2007 also thanks to the impetus of General Ivan Resce —, Masiello has drawn a clear line for the future:

- **The geopolitical shift:** Given the **climate of intense international tension**, the global scenario requires a radical rethinking of the Country's defensive posture.
- **Stop to future disposals:** Those signed in Merano will be **the last disposals** in an army that, on the contrary, has the primary need to **strengthen**.

- **Priority to personnel and operational capabilities:** Preserving the real estate heritage means protecting the **spaces necessary for training, logistics and operational readiness** of troops.



An unpopular but necessary decision

Putting **national defense interests** ahead of local urban planning and economic needs is not a move without political friction. For years, the strong military presence in Alto Adige has fueled a steady flow of real estate valorization agreements.

However, the **indiscriminate disposal of barracks and strategic areas** risked undermining military efficiency and personnel conditions. **Masiello once again demonstrates strategic intelligence and institutional courage**, reversing a course at a historical moment when continental stability and security require maximum attention and resources.

"Given the climate of intense international tension, these will be the last disposals in an army that must instead strengthen."

— **General C. Masiello**

Toward a new paradigm for Defense

The directive of the Chief of the General Staff sends an unmistakable signal: **national sovereignty and security** are not negotiable nor can they be compressed for reasons of mere local convenience. Preserving the Army's heritage means **defending the State's operational capacity** to respond to future challenges. Praise for a **military leadership** that chooses

coherence and long-term effectiveness over easy contingent consensus.