



Germany, traveling for over 3 months requires Army authorization: men of conscription age targeted

Published on 05/04/2026

In Germany, the topic of military conscription returns to the forefront of debate following the introduction of a provision concerning men of potentially recallable age. From 2026, citizens between 17 and 45 years old must obtain authorization from the Bundeswehr for stays abroad exceeding three months.

The regulation, initially almost unnoticed, has emerged in recent days, attracting public attention and raising questions about its actual implementation and implications for freedom of movement.

A formal measure involving millions of citizens

The provision is part of the update of conscription laws, which in Germany have not been abolished but suspended since 2011. This means that the conscription system remains legally

existent and can be reactivated under certain conditions.

In this context, the requirement for authorization for long stays abroad represents a tool aimed at maintaining control over the availability of potentially recallable citizens, preventing them from settling outside the country for extended periods without any form of monitoring.

The government's position: automatic authorizations

In response to initial criticisms, the German government has clarified that, at present, authorizations will be granted automatically. According to Berlin, the measure is not intended to concretely limit individual freedom but to maintain a regulatory framework consistent with the potential reactivation of conscription.

However, there remains an element of uncertainty due to the lack of definitive implementing provisions, which will need to clarify operational methods and criteria.

The return of conscription in the European context

The issue fits into a broader context, characterized by the progressive deterioration of security in Europe. The conflict in Ukraine and international tensions have brought the topic of defense and the availability of military personnel back to the political agenda.

Several European countries are considering strengthening reserve systems or the reintroduction, even partially, of mandatory conscription. In this scenario, the German choice appears as a signal of regulatory preparation rather than an immediate operational measure.

Individual freedoms and security needs

The central point remains the delicate balance between national security needs and individual rights. Even if the authorization is intended to be granted without particular restrictions, its existence raises questions about the role of the State in managing citizens' mobility in peacetime.

More than a concrete limitation, the regulation today represents a political indicator: conscription, in Europe, is no longer a relic of the past but a tool that could become relevant again in an increasingly unstable strategic context.

News link: https://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2026/04/04/germania-serve-ok-esercito-a-lunghi-viaggi-esteri-degli-uomini-in-eta-di-leva_5f961818-e5cb-4fcb-9c41-7053efeb91eb.html