



Hands Off the Armed Forces: Military Unions Must Stop the FLC-CGIL/Emilia-Romagna's Ideological Attack

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FLC-CGIL Emilia-Romagna has asked the Regional School Office to **revoke its agreements with the Esercito Italiano, openly urging schools to "disobey"** guidance meetings on Accademie e Scuole Militari, which it has branded as warmongering propaganda.

The latest ideological offensive against the dignity and constitutional role of our Armed Forces this time bears the explicit signature of FLC-CGIL Emilia-Romagna. The confederate union's attempt to block Esercito Italiano career guidance sessions in high schools — going so far as to advocate an incredible "disobedience" by educational institutions — marks a point of no return that cannot and must not go unanswered with a forceful, united response. Portraying the presentation of the educational offerings of the Academies and Military Schools as recruitment intended to "prepare for war" is not merely a blatant distortion of reality: it is a genuine cultural attack on women and men who, by tradition and duty of office, are

"accustomed to obeying in silence," serving the Nation with discretion and a spirit of sacrifice.

"CGIL must not be allowed to turn the culture of Defense and service to the Nation into a partisan target."

Those who wear the uniform ensure every day the framework of security and democratic stability that safeguards the fundamental freedoms of all citizens, including the freedoms of association and teaching that CGIL itself is exploiting today.

The Necessary Response from Military Unionism

In this context of an unjustified institutional attack, the recent establishment and organization of military unions takes on fundamental importance that goes far beyond strictly contractual and pay-related issues. **It is time for professional associations representing military personnel to take up the defense of the honor and image of the profession.**

We first turn to **USMIA (Unione Sindacale Militare Interforze Associata)**, an organization of primary importance and recognized authority, to firmly lead a united stance by the entire sector. Military unions **must shield themselves from the hegemonic ambitions and ideological drift of politicized factions** seeking to delegitimize the role of defense.

Silencing the Esercito, Aeronautica, Marina and Carabinieri in schools means depriving young people of the opportunity to learn about paths in life rooted in discipline, solidarity and a sense of the state.

The rhetoric that pits schools against the culture of defense betrays the Constitution itself: **peace cannot be defended by demonizing those who train and work every day to ensure it.**

The Duty to Speak Out Against Prejudice

CGIL's claim to set itself up as the moral censor of what is or is not permissible in classrooms reveals a partisan view of civic life. Article 52 of our Constitution states unequivocally that *"the defense of the Homeland is the sacred duty of the citizen"*. Denying students the opportunity to interact with military personnel means obscuring the ethical significance of this constitutional principle.

Military leaders, given the neutral role they play in the democratic system, rightly maintain a discreet public profile. However, this institutional restraint must not become the breach through which ideologically driven factions can attack the image of uniformed personnel with impunity.

This is precisely where **USMIA and the other military union organizations have a key role to play: breaking down the wall of passivity and making a strong, authoritative, legally grounded voice heard in every public and media forum.**

Military unionism cannot remain a neutral bystander when attempts are made to ghettoize the profession of arms. Defending the dignity of the soldier means demanding the respect owed to those who ensure national security, both on overseas missions and while providing disaster relief to communities at home.

The values of security, the defense of the homeland, and national identity do not belong to any one political camp: they are the shared heritage of the entire Republic and cannot be demeaned by hate campaigns or prejudices brandished as civil-rights causes.

Serving in silence does not mean tolerating delegitimization. USMIA and military unions must act immediately to reaffirm that the Army in schools promotes citizenship, values and respect for institutions.

Conclusions: Responding with the Strength of Values

In the face of CGIL's ideological drift, the defense sector deserves proud, cohesive and responsive representation. USMIA and the trade union associations of the Armed Forces must rise to the challenge and become advocates for a necessary cultural renewal. **Responding to provocations does not mean politicizing the stars, but safeguarding the honor, dignity, and truthfulness of the service rendered to the Nation.** It is time to make clear that those who wear the uniform will no longer accept baseless attacks from those who confuse the defense of the Homeland with a threat to democracy.

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