



Milan and the lesson of the day after: the Army is there; now a strategic reserve is needed

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In an era marked by ongoing emergencies and an ever-evolving geopolitical landscape, Italy once again finds itself grappling with its own resilience. This is demonstrated by the daily commitment on the ground: **Milan is a clear example, following yet another emergency overcome** precisely thanks to the prompt and reassuring presence of our units in the field. In this context, the proposal put forward by the Minister of Defense **Guido Crosetto** takes on particular significance, aimed at the **establishment of a voluntary operational reserve** ready to support the country during **times of difficulty and crisis, both domestic and external**.

A crucial bill before the Committee

The initiative has reached a key parliamentary stage: the **motion submitted by Senator Cinzia Pellegrino** to the **defense bill**, currently under review by the **Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee**, formally commits the Government to defining **recruitment**

criteria, legal status, and periodic training.

The aim is to create an **auxiliary operational reserve that can be rapidly deployed** and could eventually reach **40,000 men and women at full strength**. This measure – designed to draw on both **retired military personnel** and **civilians with strategic expertise** – represents a concrete, forward-looking response to the requests of senior military leadership, ensuring that Defense has a **flexible, well-prepared force for situations involving systemic crises or emergencies**.



A history of dedication: from Vespri Siciliani to international theaters

The Esercito Italiano has demonstrated in the field, on more than one occasion, **the extraordinary ability to do what others cannot or will not do**. From the historic and complex operation "**Vespri Siciliani**" to extremely high-risk international theaters such as **Somalia, Lebanon, and Afghanistan**, our Armed Forces have consistently acted guided by a core value: **the spirit of service to the Nation**, something unfortunately unfamiliar and unknown to many.

Today **the Italian Army is the very essence of this value**: wherever and for whatever reason, it represents **the last resource to which the Nation can entrust its survival and resilience**. For this reason, it is entirely **right and proper that the Army be able to rely on a willing segment of its people**, ready to stand alongside it in times of greatest need.



Beyond personnel: technology, infrastructure, and twenty years of sacrifice

It is essential to understand that modern defense **is not made up solely of personnel and willpower**, but requires **above all, advanced technology, modern infrastructure, and continuous training**, elements that are now **more indispensable than ever** compared with all other branches of the state.

- **The gap with other branches:** Many other sectors and institutions, thanks to **favorable internal and external factors and specific historical circumstances**, have over time managed to **keep pace with modernization**.
- **Twenty years of sacrifices and cuts:** By contrast, the Army has **made sacrifices in silence for more than 20 years**, enduring **deep direct budget cuts** and **drawing down its limited available resources** in order to guarantee public safety.
- **The value of the reform:** Minister Crosetto's vision and the bill under review by the Commission are aimed precisely at reversing this course, complementing permanent-service personnel with **human resources that are educated, trained, and equipped with cutting-edge technology**.

Conclusion

Recognizing the Army's value means equipping the state with adequate structural, technological, and personnel resources. The creation of a **prepared, trained volunteer reserve integrated into civil society** represents the finest tribute to those who, in every

moment of difficulty, **ensure the continuity of the Nation and the protection of its citizens.**