



NATO Beyond the Loyalty Test - The Need for a Structural Reform of the Alliance

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After decades of constant evolution, NATO is today facing a **critical and unprecedented phase** of its historical transformation. Having moved past the phases of **burden sharing** (the sharing of financial burdens) and **burden shifting** (the strategic repositioning of efforts), the Alliance seems to have entered a **third phase**, characterized by the imposition of a true “**fidelity test**”.

The recent maneuvers by Washington, requiring Alliance members to explicitly confirm their loyalty to political directives, mark a **profound shift** in the very paradigm of an organization born to ensure **collective security**. It is crucial to remember, in this delicate moment, that **democratic alliances** rest on the indispensable foundation of **dialogue** and **equal dignity** among member nations, and not on **hierarchical subordination** to a single state, however leading.

An Unexpected Strategic Risk

The risk inherent in this new approach is tangible: according to *Bloomberg*, Washington's maneuvers introduce a new and unsettling logic into the transatlantic relationship, requiring detailed feedback on the purchase of armaments from American companies, positions taken regarding “made in Europe”, and the willingness to allow the use of national bases for operations conducted unilaterally by the United States, as has recently happened in the Middle East.

It almost seems that, through such internal pressure dynamics, Vladimir Putin's plan, denounced by the *New York Times* based on **intelligence** sources, is being inadvertently given room to breathe: in a secret briefing with military commanders, the “tsar” set as a strategic goal the **collapse of NATO and the EU from within**. The Kremlin had already prepared, since last year, an interference campaign based on methods tested in other countries, including training programs to transform pro-Russian citizens into operational military personnel, with the ultimate aim of **disrupting the European security architecture**. In a global context where Russia is no longer perceived as the monolithic existential enemy of the McCarthy era, but as an actor actively working to destabilize the West, the internal cohesion of the Alliance becomes the most valuable weapon to resist.

At the same time, **China** is assuming a role of increasing influence on the four strategic axes: **diplomatic, military, economic, and informational**. The threats facing **world democracies** today are no longer just regional or conventional, but **global and multidomain**.

Towards a New Configuration

Perhaps it is time to courageously reflect on the need for a **structural reform** of the Alliance's Charter. It is necessary to refocus maximum attention on NATO's **southern flank**, a sector that Italy has been promoting for years with limited results and which today, due to the crises in the **Straits of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb**, has become a critical nerve point for the security of the entire **Europe**. At the same time, to effectively counter contemporary **multidomain threats**, the Alliance should evolve by expanding its scope through the inclusion of new strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific, such as **Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea**. NATO must not limit itself to reacting but must transform to protect a rules-based order,

where the strength of the union is not measured by submission, but by the **collective ability** to defend the dignity and sovereignty of world democracies.

News link: <https://ground.news/article/how-loyal-are-you-to-trump-washington-tests-nato-allies-with-questionnaire-before-deciding-on-defense-cuts>