Quick Response 2026: paratroopers of the 183° Nembo in the skies of Mostar

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The maneuvers of the multinational exercise **"Quick Response 26"**, scheduled **from August 22 to September 3, 2026**, represent one of the most relevant training moments for the **EUFOR Althea** mission in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Under the direction of **EUFOR Commander, Major General Maurizio Fronda**, the arrival of a **significant contingent of reserve forces**, initiated around mid-August, allowed testing of complex redeployment procedures.

Part of the personnel and heavy equipment entered the operational area through the **Croatian port of Ploče**, continuing by land towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. In parallel, there was a **planned increase in military traffic** at **Sarajevo airport**, used for the rapid influx of specialized personnel and critical logistical materials.

These preliminary operations, supported by the infrastructure of local Armed Forces, fall within normal preparatory activities aimed at **verifying operational readiness** and command and control procedures, without this representing any alteration of the security situation in the

country.

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The key role of the 183° Nembo paratroopers

The element of greatest novelty and international resonance of the 2026 edition is undoubtedly the **active participation of airborne units** from Italy, specifically represented by the paratroopers of the **183° Nembo Regiment of the Folgore Brigade, commanded by Colonel Alessandro Villa**.

The highlight of this phase took place **in the skies of Mostar**, where the "Nembo" paratroopers executed an **operational airdrop** aboard a low-flying aircraft that took off directly from Italy. An operation of this magnitude **has no documented precedent** in previous public editions of Quick Response.

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> *"The airdrop over the skies of Mostar and the direct employment of the national strategic reserve demonstrate the exceptionally high degree of flexibility and promptness achieved by EUFOR Althea in force projection."*

This activity fits perfectly within the framework of **solid Italian contribution to the mission**. Already last May, the **EUFOR Commander, Major General Maurizio Fronda** had highlighted the crucial role of Italian personnel and identified precisely the August exercise as the ideal testing ground for verifying the rapid response capacity to security needs. Strategic objectives and perspectives for regional security

The Quick Response 2026 exercise is not limited to a demonstration of temporary force, but pursues **precise structural objectives** defined by the military leadership of the European Union, as also reiterated by operational commander Lieutenant General Ludovic Pinon de Quincy during his visit to Camp Butmir alongside the **EUFOR Commander**

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The main objectives of the exercise include:

- **Advanced interoperability:** Strengthen cooperation and integration between permanent forces *in-theatre* and strategic reserve battalions.
- **Rapid reaction capability:** Verify the speed of deployment in any area of Bosnia and Herzegovina under EUFOR command direction.
- **Support for EUFOR mandate:** Ensure the maintenance of a **safe and stable environment** in support of all citizens of the country, confirming the credibility of the European mission.

With the conclusion of activities set for **September 3**, Quick Response 2026 confirms itself as a **fundamental pillar for Balkan stability**, highlighting the effectiveness and deterrence of the international contingent led by Major General Maurizio Fronda, enriched by the operational intervention of units led by **Colonel Alessandro Villa**.