



## Red Sea, Crosetto's Firm Stance: Italy Holds Its Ground, While Germany?

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The recent escalation in the Middle Eastern quadrant — marked by new Yemeni raids targeting energy infrastructures in Saudi Arabia — dramatically brings the security of the **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** back to the center of global attention. In this highly tense scenario, the Italian government's stance, firmly interpreted by Defense Minister Guido Crosetto, is confirmed not only as correct but as the only one truly adhering to the gravity of the threat. However, the immobility and strategic retreats of other European partners, primarily Germany, risk shattering the very concept of common defense.

### A Vital Artery for Italy: Guido Crosetto's Right Choice

Italy's position is crystal clear: **the Navy ships remain in the Red Sea**. As reiterated by Minister Crosetto, now is not the time to retreat in the face of the “chaos tactic” pursued by the Pasdaran and Houthi militants.

For Italy, a peninsula stretching into the Mediterranean and devoted to export, freedom of navigation at Bab el-Mandeb is not an exercise in abstract geopolitics but a **primary national interest**. From that maritime bottleneck depend trade flows, the arrival of raw materials, and the very survival of our economy. Abandoning the area would mean passively accepting a commercial blockade capable of exponentially multiplying inflation and energy costs for families and businesses. The choice to maintain the presence — operating within the framework of the European missions **Aspides** and **Atalanta** — demonstrates a sense of responsibility and a clear strategic vision.



Red Sea, Crosetto's Firm Stance: Italy Holds Its Ground to Thwart the Chaos Tactic of Iran and Houthi

## Europe Needs to Wake Up: The Burden Cannot Fall Solely on Italy

If Rome does its part, the same cannot be said for the rest of the European Union. Too often, the burden of maritime security missions is offloaded onto the shoulders of a few member states, turning European solidarity into an abstract principle.

Crucial missions like *Aspides* are not born as “social outings” but as indispensable shields to protect the entire European market. If the Red Sea is blocked, it is not only the Italian economy that suffers but the entire industrial fabric of the continent, Germany included. For this reason, the European Union must definitively wake up, increasing the assets, resources, and active participation in surveillance and protection missions.

## Germany's Misstep and the Leadership Test

In this context, Berlin's stance, which is considering or proceeding with the withdrawal of its naval assets from the area, is making noise and causing great concern. It is a short-sighted move that Germany must urgently reconsider.

*Without solid political leadership capable of addressing foreign and defense policy issues with a view to collective European interests, Germany cannot aspire to a role as a continental reference point.*

The security of the Union is not an à la carte menu. European solidarity cannot be invoked unilaterally — perhaps focusing attention exclusively north on the eastern flank — but must necessarily materialize also on the **southern and maritime flank**, from which the energy and economic stability of the entire Union passes.

## Conclusion

The Bab el-Mandeb crisis shows that Europe's security is played out in distant seas as much as at land borders. The determination demonstrated by Italy and Minister Crosetto indicates the right course: firmness, defensive deterrence, and constant presence. It is time for Berlin and other European capitals to step out of ambiguity: the defense of common seas requires political courage and presence on the ground, not steps backward.