



Strait of Hormuz, Italy ready to contribute to navigation security

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Italy is ready to support a potential international initiative to ensure the **security of commercial navigation** in the **Strait of Hormuz**, a strategic passage for global **energy**, logistical, and commercial balances. The availability was announced alongside **United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Japan**, as concerns grow over the deteriorating situation in the **Persian Gulf**. The decision comes a few days after the European failure to extend the **Aspides** mission in the area, but according to Italian authorities, it is not an offensive initiative. The declared goal remains the protection of **freedom of navigation** through a **multilateral** and shared framework.

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A political initiative, not a war mission

In the note released by **Downing Street**, the six signatory countries expressed their willingness to contribute to the efforts necessary to ensure the **safe passage** of ships through the Strait, condemning the threats and attacks attributed to **Iran**. The statement highlights the need to stop **mines**, **drone** and **missile** attacks, as well as any other actions capable of compromising commercial traffic. From the Italian side, Foreign Minister **Antonio Tajani** described the text as a “**political, not military**” document, while Defense Minister **Guido Crosetto** ruled out any possibility of a war mission. Rome thus reiterates a line of strong caution: no operational entry into **Hormuz** without a **truce**, without clear international legitimacy, and without a broader initiative under the aegis of the **United Nations**.

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Tehran's reactions and the risk of escalation

On the opposite front, **Tehran's** reaction was immediate and harsh. Iranian Foreign Minister **Seyyed Abbas Araghchi** warned that any participation in a military action promoted by the **United States** and **Israel** would be considered a form of complicity in aggression. According to Iran, the current crisis in the Strait is indeed the direct result of the ongoing conflict in the region. Meanwhile, French President **Emmanuel Macron** called the escalation in the Gulf “reckless,” hoping for a pause in hostilities to favor negotiation. The UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** also emphasized the need to reopen maritime traffic in one of the world's main **choke points** of commerce. In this context, Italy's position appears clear: to contribute to the stabilization of the region and the protection of **maritime traffic**, but exclusively within a **legal, multilateral** framework oriented towards **de-escalation**.

News link: <https://www.shippingitaly.it/2026/03/19/dietrofront-sullo-stretto-di-hormuz-italia-pronta-a-intervenire-per-garantire-il-traffico-marittimo/>