

# SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING

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The President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, chaired the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council today at the Quirinale Palace.

The meeting was attended by: the President of the Council of Ministers, Prof. Giuseppe Conte; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Luigi Di Maio; the Minister of the Interior, Dott.ssa Luciana Lamorgese; the Minister of Defense, the Hon. Lorenzo Guerini; the Minister of Economy and Finance, Hon. Prof. Roberto Gualtieri; the Minister of Economic Development, Sen. Stefano Patuanelli; the Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Enzo Vecciarelli.

The Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Riccardo Fraccaro, was also present; the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, Dr. Ugo Zampetti; the Secretary of the Supreme Defense Council, Gen. Rolando Mosca Moschini.

The Council, after expressing its gratitude to all the defense divisions, which are providing their precious contribution, with health, logistical and operational structures, to the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has made a point of view on the main areas of instability and the presence of the Armed Forces in the various Operational Theaters.

The health emergency has produced a global crisis with consequences of a social and economic nature that risk accentuating conflicts in various areas of the world. A relaunch of multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation in all fields is indispensable at this stage.

Transnational terrorism remains a threat, especially in the most fragile areas. The criticality of the current situation requires us not to let our guard down and to continue to contribute decisively to initiatives aimed at combating the phenomenon.

The rise in the level of tension in the Eastern Mediterranean is of concern. The Council called for compliance with international conventions and coordinated action aimed at averting the risks of escalation, in order to ensure the stability of a strategic area for national interests.

In Libya, a joint effort by the international community is essential so that the truce in place can be consolidated without the interference of third parties, allowing a diplomatic solution managed by the United Nations that is exclusively for the benefit of the Libyan people.

The Council expressed its closeness to the Lebanese people, severely affected by the disaster in the port of Beirut. Italy confirms its commitment to every form of collaboration aimed at allowing a rapid resolution of the emergency and a restoration of normality.

The strong commitment to support the international effort in the fight against terrorism is confirmed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The use of national contingents must take place with a shared approach and in close coordination with the allies.

NATO and the European Union remain the pillars of national security and defense policy. Italy is firmly committed to preserving and renewing the value of the two institutions, which are fundamental for the peace and prosperity of peoples. In a context made more unstable by the effects of the pandemic, the solidity of these Bodies constitutes a point of reference for the relaunch of member countries.

The Council then analyzed the process of modernizing the Armed Forces. Defense investments favor the development of the entire country system and act as a driving force above all in high technology sectors. It is desirable to combine the increased demand for security with the growth opportunities offered by the sector. This requires certainty in the multi-year allocation of resources, also to allow a profitable synergy with the national defense and aerospace industry.

In this context, it was finally agreed on the need to verify the Law 244/2012 "Review of the National Military Instrument", in order to identify any corrective measures in relation to the changed reference context, and to proceed with the completion of the reform process of Defense in a unitary and inter-force sense, in line with the dictates of Law 25/1997.

Rome, 27/10/2020