

Reaction from Vincenzo Moccia, Co-founder of Assodipro

The same problems that the defunct Military Representation faced with the General Staffs of the Armed Forces and the Armed Corps of the State are beginning to resurface.

On 29 August 2024, I learned from Infodifesa about a dispute between ITAMIL (one of the military trade unions) and the Army General Staff.

In my opinion, this was and remains inevitable since Law No. 46 of 28 April 2022 merely highlights all the limitations on expression, action, and other activities that the RR.MM. (Military Representation) previously faced within the military system.

Can we say that nothing has changed? In some respects, YES, nothing has changed. There were significant limitations before, and these limitations persist today (as evidenced by the reasoning of the Head of the First Department of the Defence General Staff: "media overexposure," "use of rhetoric towards political authority," etc.).

How can these attitudes be defined? Are they intimidating? Are they interventions aimed at "influencing union activity"? In a different context, where genuine union representation exists, such actions would likely be sanctioned by the judiciary as "anti-union conduct." This is a crime punishable by up to three months' imprisonment or a fine of up to two hundred and six euros.

Today, trade unions outside the system should enjoy greater protection, not be at the mercy of the General Staff or, even worse, the hierarchy. They should have greater freedom of expression, without censorship and with no limitations other than those imposed by the Constitution or by ordinary laws.

Unfortunately, these limitations still exist and must be addressed. While we wait for the political class to develop a greater awareness, and for the representatives of the unions—sorry, the APCSM (Professional Associations of a Trade Union Nature among Military Personnel)—to become more aware of their union rights, I, Vincenzo Moccia, co-founder of Assodipro (member card No. 3), propose the creation of a working group. This group would consist of future Assodipro leaders and the national representatives of the Professional Associations of a Trade Union Nature within the military, with the goal of reaching an agreement that "protects the thoughts and actions" of union representatives from these inappropriate interferences.

As is well known, Assodipro was the driving force behind the "unionization of the armed forces" and certainly not in favor of this law, which we have opposed from its inception.

Therefore, I look forward to a positive response to this initiative, which involves both the military trade unions and the leadership of Assodipro. I hope that this wish becomes a reality as soon as possible.