



European Leadership Network

*Building European capacity to meet
the challenges of the 21st century*

Members of the European Leadership Network express support for the nuclear agreement with Iran, urge action by the U.S. Congress, EU countries and Iran

July 2015

Welcoming the 14th July agreement between the E3/EU+3 group and Iran on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), **we urge all the parties to implement it in good faith and call on all European states and the wider international community to support it.**

We believe that this agreement provides a sound framework for ending the crisis over the Iranian nuclear program and foundation for re-integrating Iran into the international community. At the same time, the adoption of the document is just a first step in a process which must increase the level of the security of all countries in the Middle East, Europe and beyond.

We would like to congratulate the negotiators from the E3/EU+3 and Iran for their perseverance and ability to strike the necessary compromises, and applaud the political leaders of all the countries involved. We want also to highlight the constructive role the European Union's High Representatives Catherine Ashton and Federica Mogherini played during the negotiations.

The imperative of **stopping proliferation of nuclear weapons and strengthening the non-proliferation regime has been at the core of the Iran crisis.** In our assessment, the agreement fulfils this goal for the following reasons:

- The agreement places long-term, verifiable constraints on the development of technologies and construction of facilities which could be used by Iran to produce weapons-grade materials. It caps the accumulation of nuclear material which could be used to produce a nuclear bomb and it simultaneously offers Iran an opportunity for its peaceful nuclear program to grow.
- The agreement includes a robust mechanism for monitoring the development of the Iranian nuclear program and verifying its peaceful nature by the IAEA, addressing both the question of supervision of the declared facilities and the possibility of nuclear 'sneak-out' using clandestine facilities.
- The agreement demonstrates that a crisis over a country's non-compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation obligations can be resolved through negotiations rather than the use of force. If faithfully implemented, it will be a powerful argument against those who claim that only possession of nuclear weapons can guarantee any country's 'real' security.

We believe that there will also be **broader benefits** of the deal:

- The agreement will open the way for economic engagement with Iran, which should strengthen internally the position of the pragmatic proponents of peaceful co-existence and cooperation with outside partners.
- The agreement may open the way for wider cooperation on pressing regional and international security issues, including the fight against ISIS, ending the Syrian civil war, guaranteeing a stable future for Afghanistan, and the fight against narcotics production and smuggling.

The agreement represents a high water mark of multilateral diplomacy and – as confirmed by a unanimous vote on the UN Security Council resolution – shows a **high degree of cohesion in international community with regards to Iran and its expectation for Iran to comply with the agreed terms**. If Tehran decides to renege on its commitments, it must face serious consequences and a resolute multilateral response. European countries and the EU should make this clear in their future dealings with Iran.

The deal does not give Tehran a carte blanche for extending its influence in the region, threatening Israel or continuing its support for extremist organizations. On these issues, our interests will continue to be at odds, although we hope that the JCPOA opens the way to discuss these wider foreign and security policy questions with Iran.

If we expect Iran to honour its commitment we must be ready to deliver on our part of the bargain.

We therefore call on **the U.S. Congress** to assess thoroughly and objectively the overall benefits and risks connected with the deal. We trust that our legislative colleagues will bear in mind the multilateral nature of the agreement, the value of sustaining the coalition for its implementation, and support for the deal expressed by the vast majority of the United States' most loyal allies. We encourage the Members of Congress to give the agreement a chance to prove its usefulness. The effects of the JCPOA in terms of limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities and increasing the monitoring and verification of Iran's nuclear program will become clear early on.

We call on the **EU countries** to proceed with scaling down of the sanctions regime, both internally and at the UN level, as proscribed in the JCPOA. If we want this agreement to have a truly transformational effect, the EU should also swiftly move with a well-planned political and economic outreach to Iran. At the same time, we call on the EU to include the issue of the human rights situation in Iran as part of any intensified dialogue with Tehran.

Finally, we call on the **Iranian Supreme Leader and Majlis** to support the implementation of the agreement, which respects Iranian sensitivities and is consistent with its national interests, including security and economic development of the country.

This statement is issued in the name of the ELN members listed below:

United Kingdom:

Des Browne, former Defence Secretary and Chairman of the European Leadership Network

George Robertson, former Secretary General of NATO and former Defence Secretary

John McColl, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR)

Malcolm Rifkind, former Foreign Secretary

Michael Boyce, former Chief of the Defence Staff

Menzies Campbell, former Leader of the Liberal Democrats

David Hannay, former Ambassador to the United Nations

Charles Clarke, former Home Secretary

Alan West, former Admiral and First Sea Lord

Shirley Williams, former Member of Parliament and Ad-

viser to the Prime Minister on Nuclear Proliferation

William Wallace, Member of the House of Lords

Tony Brenton, former Ambassador to Russia

David Triesman, former Foreign Office Minister

John Stanley, former Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Tom McKane, former Director General for Strategy and Security Policy

John Kerr, former Head of the Diplomatic Service

Nick Harvey, former Minister of State for the Armed Forces

France:

Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister

Paul Quilès, former Defence Minister

Alain Coldefy, former General Inspector of the French Armed Forces

Bernard Norlain, General (Retd) and Prime Ministerial Adviser

Russia:

Boris Pankin, former Soviet Foreign Minister

Vyacheslav Trubnikov, former Director of Foreign Intelligence

Igor Yurgens, Chairman of the Management Board of the Institute for Contemporary Development

Dmitry Polikanov, Head of the Central Executive Committee of the United Russia Party

Anatoly Diakov, Director of the Centre for Arms Control at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Alexander Bessmertnykh, former Foreign Minister

Germany:

Volker Ruehe, former Federal Defence Minister

Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

Klaus Wittmann, Bundeswehr General (Retd)

Rudolf Scharping, former Federal Minister of Defence

Roderich Kiesewetter, Member of the Bundestag

Walter Kolbow, former Deputy Minister of Defence

Gernot Erler, Member of the Bundestag

Uta Zapf, former Member of the Bundestag

Spain:

Narcis Serra, former Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister

Poland:

Adam Daniel Rotfeld, former Foreign Minister

Turkey:

Hikmet Cetin, former Foreign Minister

Vahit Erdem, former Member of Parliament

Ozdem Sandberk, Director of USAK and former Ambassador

Faruk Logoglu, former Ambassador to the United States

Ireland:

Eoghan Murphy, Member of Parliament

Austria:

Wolfgang Petritsch, former EU Special Envoy for Kosovo and former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sweden:

Ingvar Carlsson, former Prime Minister

Rolf Ekéus, former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq

Henrik Salander, former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament

Netherlands:

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, former Secretary General of NATO

Laurens Brinkhorst, former Minister of Economic Affairs

Klaas de Vries, former Minister for the Interior

Denmark:

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, former Foreign Minister

Czech Republic:

Jan Kavan, former President of the UN General Assembly

Croatia:

Budimir Loncar, former Foreign Minister

Ivo Slaus, former Member of Parliament

Davor Božžinovic, former Defence Minister

Finland:

Elisabeth Rehn, former Defence Minister

Tarja Cronberg, former Member of the European Parliament

Jaakko Blomberg, former Ambassador and Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jaakko Iloniemi, former Ambassador to the United States

Raimo Vayrynen, former President of the Academy of Finland

Latvia:

Imants Liegis, Ambassador to Hungary and former Defence Minister

Bulgaria:

Solomon Passy, former Chairman of the UN Security Council and former Foreign Minister

Todor Tagarev, former Defence Minister

Hungary:

Balazs Csuday, former Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Janos Martonyi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ukraine:

Oleksandr Chalyi, former First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Giorgio La Malfa, former Minister for European Affairs

Carlo Schaerf, former Chairman of the National Committee for the Physical Sciences

Massimo D'Alema, former Prime Minister

Giancarlo Aragona, former Secretary General of the OSCE

Carlo Trezza, former Ambassador and former Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Francesco Calogero, former Secretary General of Pugwash

Georgia:

Tedo Japaridze, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

Serbia:

Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council

For more information please contact

Lukasz Kulesa, Research Director, European Leadership Network

Email: lukasz@europeanleadershipnetwork.org

Tel: +44 (0) 203 176 2551