STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the implementation of the Geneva Joint Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"I am pleased to announce that outstanding issues on the implementation of the initial measures were resolved and finalised in a meeting between EEAS Deputy Secretary General Helga Schmid, acting on my behalf, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Araghchi on 9 and 10 January in Geneva. This was subsequently endorsed by all capitals.

The E3/EU+3 and Iran have now reached a common understanding on the implementation modalities for a first step of six months of initial measures as set out in the Geneva Joint Plan of Action of 24 November 2013. The technical understandings on the concrete measures to be implemented by both sides had been worked out in three rounds of intensive technical experts' meetings of the E3/EU+3 and Iran, partly also involving the IAEA. Thanks to this agreement on the implementation modalities, the foundations for a coherent, robust and smooth implementation of the Joint Plan of Action over the six-month period have been laid.

The E3/EU+3 and Iran will now start the implementation of the first step on 20 January 2014. We will ask the IAEA to undertake the necessary nuclear-related monitoring and verification activities."

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