

Council conclusions – Iran - 2004-2008

2004

23/02/04

- "1. The Council discussed the Iranian parliamentary elections on 20 February.
2. The Council recalled that over the last ten years Iran had made progress towards greater political freedom and that in the parliamentary elections in February 2000 the Iranian people clearly showed their desire for further reform.
3. Against that background, the Council expressed its deep regret and disappointment that large numbers of candidates were prevented from standing in this year's parliamentary elections, including many sitting members of the Majlis, thus making a genuine democratic choice by the Iranian people impossible. This interference was a setback for the democratic process in Iran. The Council expressed the hope that Iran will return to the path of reform and democratisation."

22/03/04

- "1. The Council discussed the Iranian nuclear programme in light of the recent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors. (8-13 March).
2. The Council welcomed the adoption, without a vote, on 13 March 2004 of a Board of Governors' resolution on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme and called on Iran to comply fully with its provisions. The Council expects Iran to cooperate with the Agency fully and to ensure that all future inspections can take place without delay.
3. The Council welcomed Iran's signature of the Additional Protocol, recalled that Iran has committed itself to act in accordance with its provisions, pending its entry into force and urged its implementation and early ratification.
4. Recalling that the resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors stated that the declarations made by Iran in October 2003 did not amount to the complete and final picture of Iran's past and present nuclear programme, the Council expressed serious concern that a number of questions in relation to Iran's nuclear programme remain outstanding. It urged Iran to provide full and proactive cooperation with the Agency in resolving all such questions in a spirit of full transparency.

5. The Council welcomed the decision by Iran of 24 February 2004 to extend the scope of its suspension of enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and its confirmation that the suspension applies to all facilities in Iran. It calls on Iran to start, in accordance with this decision, immediately, comprehensively and verifiably with the full suspension of all such activities; and in order to build up confidence henceforth to refrain from all fuel cycle activities which can also be used to produce fissile material for nuclear weapons.
6. The Council commends the Director General of the IAEA and his staff for their work and fully supports them in their efforts to resolve and clarify outstanding issues.
7. The Council decided to continue to closely monitor the situation including developments relating to the next report of the Director General of the Agency in May for consideration by the June Board of Governors.”

11/10/04

- "1. The Council recalled its previous conclusions on the subject (21 October 2002, 18 March 2003, 21 July 2003 and 13 October 2003), and welcomed the evaluation of the EU-Iran dialogue on Human Rights. This evaluation was prepared in accordance with the EU Guidelines on Human Rights dialogues and includes the fourth round of the dialogue, which took place on 14 and 15 June 2004 in Tehran.
2. The Council recalled the commitment expressed by the Government of Iran to strengthen respect for human rights in the country and to promote the rule of law.
3. The Council remains deeply concerned that despite this commitment, serious violations of human rights are continuing to occur in Iran.
4. The evaluation clearly establishes that with regard to the issues that this Council has designated as its priorities, although there seemed to be hopeful signs at some point, little overall progress has been achieved since the start of the dialogue in December 2002. These key areas of concern, which have been used as benchmarks to appraise the human rights situation in Iran and to measure the results of the dialogue, relate to Iran's co-operation with human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations, ratification and implementation of key conventions; unhindered access for international observers and international NGOs; civil rights and political freedoms; reform of the judicial system; prevention and eradication of torture; criminal punishment; discrimination and the prison system.
5. The evaluation concluded that while Iran has extended a standing invitation for visits by UN Special Human Rights mechanisms and several such visits actually took place, little progress has been made on implementing the recommendations arising

from them. With regard to the other priority issues, however, there has either been very little or no progress on the ground.

6. The Council noted that the situation with regard to the exercise of key civil rights and political freedoms such as freedom of expression, has deteriorated since the Parliamentary elections of February this year. The Council, bearing in mind its longstanding and firm position against the use of the death penalty, also expressed its concern about the recently increased number of reports about executions being carried out in apparent absence of respect for internationally recognised safeguards, and about the executions of juvenile offenders. It regretted that despite some recent legislative improvements numerous discriminatory practices continue against women as well as against persons belonging to religious minorities, both recognised and not recognised by Iran.
7. The Council reaffirmed that the human rights dialogue with Iran remains one of the means by which the EU can make a contribution to improving the human rights situation. While welcoming the efforts that Iran has so far put into its dialogue with the European Union, it reiterated that this dialogue is an effective instrument in human rights policy only if sufficient progress is achieved on the ground, both in the short and the long term. The dialogue itself should be able to make a positive contribution to EU-Iran relations in this regard. The EU remains committed to pursue the human rights dialogue, while however annually reviewing its modalities with the aim of improving its effectiveness in key areas of concern. Taking into account the outcome of the evaluation, the Council supported the need to attain a renewed commitment from the Iranian authorities to improve respect for human rights and promote the rule of law in the country and also supported the need to adjust the modalities of the dialogue with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.
8. The Council wishes to discuss with Iran a number of practical recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the dialogue, such as early agreement on themes and regular dates before each UN Commission on Human Rights and UN General Assembly, a more thorough preparation for both the round table meetings and the government-only meetings, and more transparency towards the public. This dialogue has generated great expectations within the civil society in Iran. The EU and Iran should do their best to meet these expectations.
9. The Council expressed its intention that an EU troika mission shall discuss the contents of these Council Conclusions with the Government of Iran shortly, and stressed the need to improve respect for human rights and promote the rule of law in the country, and discuss the way forward.
10. The Council further reaffirmed its position of principle that the dialogue remains without prejudice to the tabling of a resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights or at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. It agreed that at the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, the EU will convey its deep concern at the serious violations of human rights in Iran.
11. The EU will return to the matter in the light of developments in the situation of human rights in Iran."

22/11/04

- "1. The Council welcomed the agreement reached with Iran on nuclear issues and future co-operation on 15 November, following talks with France, Germany and the UK supported by the High Representative.
2. The Council welcomed Iran's decision to suspend fully all enrichment related and reprocessing activities, and to sustain this suspension while negotiations are underway on an agreement on long-term arrangements. It noted that sustaining the suspension as defined in the agreement would be essential for the continuation of the overall process. It expected Iran to take the steps necessary to enable the IAEA Director General to report at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on 25 November that full suspension was in place.
3. The Council underlined the importance of the negotiation on long-term arrangements. These arrangements will have to provide for objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes. The Council affirmed its willingness to work towards a positive outcome.
4. The Council confirmed the EU's readiness to explore ways to develop political and economic co-operation with Iran, following action by Iran to address the EU's areas of concern. It recalled the conclusions of the European Council on 5 November that negotiations on a Trade and Co-operation Agreement would resume as soon as suspension was verified."

13/12/04

- "1. The Council discussed the EU's relations with Iran in the light of the agreement reached with Iran on 15 November 2004 following talks with France, Germany and the UK, supported by the High Representative, and the recent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors (25-29 November 2004).
2. The Council welcomed the adoption, without a vote, on 29 November 2004 of the Board of Governors' resolution on Iran's nuclear programme and called on Iran to comply fully with its provisions.
3. The Council welcomed the confirmation by the IAEA that Iran had voluntarily suspended all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, thus paving the way for negotiations on a long term arrangement, as provided for in the agreement of 15 November 2004. The Council underlined that sustaining the full suspension of all enrichment related and reprocessing activities is essential for the continuation of the overall process.
4. The Council stressed that a long term arrangement resulting from negotiations, which started on 13 December, will have to provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.
5. The Council underlined its full support for the negotiating process and recalled its commitment to contribute to a positive outcome. In light of the IAEA's confirmation of full suspension, it confirmed that the EU would resume negotiations with Iran on

a draft EU-Iran Trade and Cooperation Agreement together with parallel negotiations on a political agreement. It confirmed the EU's readiness to explore ways to further develop political and economic co-operation with Iran, following action by Iran to also address the other concerns of the EU regarding the fight against terrorism, human rights and Iran's approach to the Middle East Peace Process."

2005

16/03/05

"The Council took note of the oral report by the High Representative in respect of Iran, including the letter from the High Representative and the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, and expressed its support for the approach set out by the High Representative.

The Council welcomed the support received from the international community and, in particular, the statement made by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 11 March of measures in support of these diplomatic efforts."

3/10/05

"The Council welcomes and fully supports the Resolution adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors on 24 September.

The Council notes that the Resolution gives Iran the opportunity, through its actions, to influence the international community's next steps. It urges Iran to take this opportunity by implementing all the measures requested by the IAEA Board, including reinstating a full suspension of all fuel cycle activities.

The Council reaffirms the EU's support for a diplomatic solution to international concerns over Iran's nuclear programme, which should include an agreement on long-term arrangements. Such a solution would help create the climate for a better relationship with Europe and the international community as a whole. The EU's preferred approach remains the resumption of negotiations within the framework agreed in Paris last November. The EU urges Iran to take the steps necessary to make this possible."

7/11/05

- "1. The Council reviewed its overall approach to Iran.
2. The Council condemns in the strongest terms the comments in respect of the State of Israel made by President Ahmedinejad. It deplores calls for violence and for the destruction of any state. These comments cause concern about Iran's role in the region and its future intentions.
3. The Council reiterates its grave concern at Iran's resumption of activity at the Uranium Conversion Facility in Esfahan. The Council urges Iran to implement all measures requested by the IAEA Board of Governors in its Resolution on 24

September, including reinstating a full suspension of all fuel cycle activities, thus allowing negotiations with the European side to resume before the IAEA Board meets again in November. The Council underlines the EU's continued support for a diplomatic solution to international concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

4. The Council underlines the long-standing importance it attaches to sustainable political and economic reform in Iran. In this regard, the Council agreed on the importance of the Comprehensive Dialogue. The Council agreed that the Comprehensive Dialogue is an appropriate framework for discussing issues of mutual interest and concern. These include not only areas such as counter-narcotics but also areas of long-standing concern to the EU: terrorism, the proliferation of WMD, Iran's approach to the Middle East peace process, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and regional issues. While noting progress in the co-operation between Iran and Europe in the field of counter-narcotics, the Council reiterates that the evolution of the long-term relationship, avoiding a deterioration, between Iran and Europe will depend on action by Iran to address effectively all the EU's areas of concern. The Council reiterates that it is up to Iran to determine, through its actions, whether its long-term relationship with the EU will improve or deteriorate.
5. The Council expresses its deep concern at the serious violations of human rights which continue to occur in Iran. It urges Iran to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Council is disappointed that the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue has not been held since June 2004, despite repeated attempts on the EU's part to agree dates for the next round. The Council urges Iran to take steps to resume substantive discussions under the Dialogue and to demonstrate by its actions that it is willing to improve respect for human rights including by fulfilling its obligations and earlier commitments in relation to juvenile executions and by permanently releasing Akbar Ganji and other prisoners of conscience.
6. The Council stresses that discrimination between EU Member States by Iran in any field is unacceptable and contrary to EU principles of solidarity. It calls on Iran to lift all discriminatory restrictions against individual Member States, which could impact negatively on Iran's stated desire to pursue greater co-operation with the EU.
7. The Council agrees to keep the EU's approach to Iran under close review in light of progress on the nuclear file and other issues of concern."

2006

30-31/01/06

"The European Union is gravely concerned at the removal of seals at several nuclear installations, including at Natanz, and Iran's decision to resume enrichment related activities. The EU calls on Iran to re-instate the seals and to re-establish full, sustained and verifiable suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities as called for repeatedly in IAEA Board of Governors' resolutions as an essential confidence building measure.

In line with the requests made in IAEA Board of Governors Resolutions the EU emphasizes the need for Iran to refrain from all enrichment related and reprocessing activities until international confidence is restored.

This is not a dispute between Iran and Europe, but between Iran and the international community. The EU does not question the right of Iran to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its obligations under the NPT, a right which we have consistently reaffirmed. The dispute is about Iran's failure to build the necessary confidence as to the exclusively peaceful nature of its programme. This confidence has further eroded as a result of the unilateral steps Iran has taken contrary to its commitments. The Council noted with concern that the Director General has reported that the IAEA is not yet in a position to clarify some important issues after two and a half years of intensive inspections and investigation and that Iran's full transparency is indispensable and overdue.

In the light of recent Iranian actions, which run counter to IAEA-Resolutions and which are a rejection of the efforts to explore whether a basis can be agreed for resuming negotiations, the European Union Member States will closely coordinate and work for the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna to involve the UN Security Council to reinforce the authority of the IAEA in line with these conclusions. This is a necessary and appropriate step, fully in line with the IAEA Board of Governors' resolution of September 2005, which found that Iran had been non-compliant with its Safeguards Agreement and that the history of concealment of Iran's nuclear activities and the nature of these activities had given rise to questions within the competence of the Security Council.

The EU believes that the issue can still be solved by negotiations; but this will require a cooperative and transparent approach on the part of the Iranian government with the IAEA, and the return to full suspension. The EU remains committed to a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue in which the IAEA should play a central role. Involvement of the Security Council does not end the IAEA's responsibilities; on the contrary it strengthens them.

The EU will remain fully engaged in this issue. The EU Member States will closely coordinate their action both in the framework of the IAEA in Vienna and of the United Nations in New York, in coordination also with international partners.

The Council recalls in this context its support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including their means of delivery.

The Council recalls that in its Conclusions of 7 November 2005 it repeated that the evolution of its long-term relationship with Iran would depend on action by Iran to address effectively all the EU's areas of concern. The Council regards Iran's resumption of enrichment-related activities as a negative development that will impact on the overall relationship which we will review in the light of actions taken by Iran. The Council reiterates that it is up to Iran to determine, through its actions, whether its long-term relationship with the EU will improve or deteriorate."

27/02/06

- "1. The Council welcomed the resolution adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors on 4 February with the overwhelming support of Board members. It supported the Board's decision to involve the United Nations Security Council. The Council believed that if Iran continues to fail to heed the repeated requests made in

successive IAEA Board resolutions, the Security Council should now put its weight behind the Board's requests and the IAEA's efforts to resolve outstanding questions.

2. The Council regretted Iran's decision to withhold voluntary co-operation with the IAEA, contrary to the Board's requests and to Iran's earlier decision to implement the provisions of its Additional Protocol. Iran's decision to limit co-operation further increases international concerns and suspicions about Iranian intentions and makes it more difficult for the IAEA to resolve outstanding issues.
3. The European Union deplored Iran's resumption of enrichment-related activities, including enrichment at Natanz. Iran's introduction of nuclear material into centrifuges on 13 February in defiance of repeated calls by the IAEA Board of Governors and the international community is also a step in the wrong direction. The IAEA Board has repeatedly called for Iran to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities as an essential confidence-building measure. The restoration of international confidence requires full transparency and cooperation from Iran.
4. The Council reaffirmed the EU's continued support for a diplomatic solution. It urged Iran to reinstate a full suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. The Council called on Iran to meet in full all of the Board's requests in good time before the next Board meeting on 6 March. The Council welcomed Russia's efforts to seek a way forward involving the offer to Iran of a financial stake in an enrichment joint venture on the territory of the Russian Federation, conditional on Iran's resumption of the moratorium on all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.
5. The EU does not question the right of Iran to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its obligations under the NPT, a right which the EU has consistently reaffirmed. If international concerns about Iran's programme are fully addressed, the EU would be prepared, as already stated in its August 2005 proposal, to support the development of a safe, sustainable and proliferation-proof Iranian civilian nuclear programme.
6. Recalling the European Council conclusions of 16 December 2005, which agreed on the need to keep the EU's diplomatic options under close review and continue to calibrate the EU's approach in light of Iranian declarations and actions, the Council agreed that Iran's resumption of enrichment activities is a negative development. It is time for Iran to reconsider its position on these activities and other areas of concern in order to avoid further deterioration of its relationship with the EU.
7. The recent attacks on European missions in Tehran were unjustifiable and totally unacceptable. The Council calls on Iran to protect diplomatic missions, including through proper policing, in accordance with its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
8. The Council calls on Iran to lift all discriminatory restrictions against individual EU Member States."

20/03/06

"On 4 February the IAEA Board of Governors decided by an overwhelming majority that the issue of Iran's nuclear programme should be reported to the UN Security Council. The EU expresses its deep concern at Iran's continuing failure to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to take the steps necessary to re-establish international confidence in the peaceful purpose of its nuclear programme, as recorded in the Director General's report of 27 February.

The EU continues to be committed to a diplomatic solution. The Council deeply regrets that Iran has failed to implement in full the measures deemed necessary by the IAEA Board. As a result, the UN Security Council is currently considering appropriate steps. The Council believes that the Security Council should act to reinforce the authority of the IAEA. The Council calls again upon Iran urgently to meet in full the requests set out in the IAEA Board of Governors' resolution of 4 February. The Council underlines that this should include a full suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.

The nuclear issue will remain a central and pressing concern. The Council however also underlines the necessity that Iran addresses effectively all the EU's areas of concern which include terrorism, Iran's approach to the Middle East peace process, regional issues as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council welcomes the release of Akbar Ganji on 17 March. It condemns his detention and treatment while in prison and calls on the Iranian authorities to release all other prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally. The Council deplors the deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran and condemns the violence used against peaceful protesters on International Women's Day. The Council reaffirms that full respect for human rights in Iran is essential, also for progress in EU/Iran relations. The Council affirms that the EU will continue to register its human rights concerns, raising in particular the plight of Iran's persecuted human rights defenders, the situation of minorities and capital punishment.

The EU will keep all its diplomatic options under close review and will calibrate its approach in the light of Iranian declarations and actions."

10/04/06

"The Council welcomes the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 29 March, which reinforced the role of the IAEA and called upon Iran to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors, which are essential to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful purpose of its nuclear programme. It also welcomes the conclusions of the Ministerial meeting in Berlin on 30 March. The Council underlines that the international community is united and determined to uphold the authority of IAEA Board resolutions and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Council remains committed to a diplomatic solution. It calls on Iran to comply with the UN Security Council Presidential Statement and implement all IAEA Board resolutions in full and to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to allow a return to negotiations.

The Council underlines its continued concerns about the human rights situation in Iran, in particular regarding the situation of Bahá'ís and other religious minorities as well as of human rights defenders, including Mr. Akbar Ganji and Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani."

15/05/06

- "1. The Council noted the IAEA Director General's report of 28 April. The Iranian authorities have failed to comply with the requests made by the Agency's Board of Governors and the UN Security Council and have also failed to actively cooperate with the Agency to clarify the outstanding issues, including those that may have a military dimension.
2. The Council deeply regrets the failure of the Iranian authorities to take the steps deemed essential by the IAEA Board and the UN Security Council as well as their threats to maintain this failure into the future. It calls on the Iranian authorities to cooperate fully with the IAEA, suspend all enrichment related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and to suspend the construction of a reactor moderated by heavy water in order to create conditions in which negotiations might resume. The EU fully supports the Security Council making this mandatory.
3. The Council reaffirms the right of Iran to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its obligations under the NPT. Building on the proposals of August 2005 as confirmed by the Council in its February 2006 conclusions, the EU would be prepared to support Iran's development of a safe, sustainable and proliferation-proof civilian nuclear programme, if international concerns were fully addressed and confidence in Iran's intentions established. The EU hopes that Iran will not fail to take up such an offer.
4. At the same time, the EU is determined to preserve the effectiveness of the multilateral non-proliferation system. The Council stresses the importance of exercising the utmost vigilance in the application of existing export control mechanisms for sensitive material so as to prevent the transfer of goods, technology and materials that might be used, directly or indirectly, in fissile material programmes and missile programmes.
5. The Council remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Iran, which is at variance with universal principles and Iran's specific obligations. It expresses its concern about the increasing number of executions, arbitrary detentions, the growing restrictions on access to information, the increasing violations of freedom of speech and religion, especially concerning the situation of the Sufi and Baha'i communities, as well as the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, lawyers and minority groups. The Council is seriously concerned about the detention of the Iranian philosopher Dr. Ramin Jahanbegloo. The Council calls upon Iranian authorities not to penalize Iranian citizens for their contacts with Europeans, including embassies, universities and cultural institutes.
6. The Council remains committed to finding a diplomatic solution. The EU would like to be able to develop relations with Iran based on confidence and cooperation. The alternative is that Iran chooses further isolation. The Council therefore calls on the Iranian authorities to urgently take the necessary decisions required for the development of such relations with the European Union and the international community. The Council also expects Iran to contribute to regional stability."

17/07/06

"The Council expresses its deep disappointment that Iran has not responded positively to the offer of negotiations put to it on 6 June by the High Representative following agreement between France, Germany, UK, China, Russia and the US, and with the full support of the European Union.

These are far-reaching proposals for a long-term agreement which would provide Iran with everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power programme. They would open the way to a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded co-operation in political and economic fields, while meeting international concerns about the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The Council recalls that the IAEA Board of Governors and the UN Security Council have repeatedly called on Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities. The proposals put to Iran are an attempt to find a way for Iran to fulfil these requirements without further action in the UN Security Council.

Since Iran has given no indication of willingness to engage seriously on the basis of the proposals the international community will have to return to the UN Security Council to make the decisions of the IAEA Board of Governors mandatory on Iran. Should Iran not comply, we will work for the adoption of measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

We remain committed to a diplomatic solution, and the ideas put to Iran remain on the table. Should Iran decide to suspend all its enrichment-related activities and to implement the Additional Protocol, the way to negotiation would be reopened and action in the Security Council could be suspended.

The Council reiterates its commitment to exercise the utmost vigilance in the application of existing export control mechanisms for sensitive material so as to prevent the transfer of goods, technology and materials that might be used, directly or indirectly, in fissile material programmes and missile programmes.

The EU remains committed to building a long-term relationship with Iran based on confidence and cooperation. Such a development will depend on progress on all issues of concern which include terrorism, Iran's approach to the Middle East peace process and regional issues.

Furthermore, the Council regrets the deterioration of the situation of human rights in Iran. Recalling its statement of 15 May 2006, the Council would like to draw particular attention to continuing violations of the freedom of expression and association, illustrated by the violent disruption of a peaceful demonstration on 12 June that advocated an end to legal discrimination against women. The Council is concerned at the situation of labour activists in Iran and the detention of Mr Mansour Ossanlou.

The Council calls on Iran to ensure implementation of its human-rights obligations including in the case of detention of Dr. Ramin Jahanbegloo. The Council deplors the lack of progress in this case and urges the Iranian authorities to ensure access to legal counsel for all detainees without delay."

16/10/06

"The Council discussed the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme. The Council commends the High Representative Solana's intensive efforts since June to encourage Iran to address IAEA Board and Security Council requirements and return to talks on long-term arrangements.

The Council recalled that the proposals presented by the High Representative on 6 June as a basis for a long-term agreement are far-reaching and would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power industry while addressing international concerns. They would open the way for a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded cooperation in political and economic fields.

The Council expressed deep concern that Iran has not yet suspended its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities as required by the IAEA Board and UNSCR 1696.

The Council recalled its statement on 17 July that if Iran did not comply with the Security Council's requirements, the EU would work for the adoption of measures under Article 41 of the UN Charter. It also recalled that in Resolution 1696 the Security Council expressed its intention to adopt appropriate measures under Article 41 if Iran did not comply. Accordingly, the Council believed that Iran's continuation of enrichment related activities has left the EU no choice but to support consultations on such measures.

The Council noted that the door to negotiations nevertheless remained open. It reaffirmed its commitment to a negotiated solution, and that such a solution would contribute to the development of the EU's relations with Iran. It urged Iran to take the positive path on offer."

2007

22/01/07

"The Council discussed Iran's nuclear programme. The Council deplored Iran's failure to take the steps repeatedly required by the IAEA Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council. It welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1737 on 23 December 2006. This decision represents a necessary and proportionate response to Iran's disregard for the concerns of the international community and for Security Council Resolution 1696.

The Council welcomed the measures in Resolution 1737, which are targeted against the most sensitive parts of the Iranian nuclear and missile programmes, and called on all countries to implement the measures in full and without delay.

To ensure effective implementation of measures in UNSCR 1737 while remaining consistent with EU policy, and recalling the EU policy not to sell arms to Iran, Ministers agreed that the EU should prevent the export to and import from Iran of the goods on the NSG and MTCR lists; ban transactions with and freeze the assets of individuals and entities covered by the criteria in UNSCR 1737; ban travel to the EU of the individuals covered by these criteria; and take measures to prevent Iranian nationals from studying proliferation sensitive subjects within the EU.

The Council welcomed the Security Council's decisions to request a report by the IAEA Director General within 60 days, and to review Iran's action in the light of that report; and that it shall suspend the implementation of measures if and for as long as Iran suspends all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development as

verified by the IAEA, to allow for negotiations; and, in the absence of Iranian compliance, to adopt further measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in order to persuade Iran to fully comply with the Security Council's Resolutions and the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors. The Council, in this context, underlined its continued commitment to an incremental and proportionate approach.

The Council reiterated at the same time its continuing support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution. It reaffirmed its support for the far-reaching proposals presented to Iran by the EU High Representative on 6 June 2006 which would open the way for a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded cooperation, and called upon Iran to seize the opportunity of reaching a negotiated solution."

5/03/07

"The Council took note of the report by the Director General of the IAEA to the United Nations Security Council of 22 February 2007 and deplored the fact that Iran has not complied with the terms of UNSC Resolution 1737, as confirmed in that report. The Council noted in particular that Iran has failed to suspend all enrichment and enrichment-related activities and appears determined to pursue these activities on an even larger scale.

In the view of the Council the report clearly demonstrates Iran's disregard of the requirements of the international community expressed in the unanimous and legally binding UNSC Resolution 1737.

The Council reasserts its support for the UNSC process and underlines that the UNSC has expressed its intention in Resolution 1737 to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should Iran fail to comply. The Council urges the international community to act with the necessary firmness in support of this process.

The Council reaffirmed at the same time its continuing support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Council seizes this opportunity to call once more upon Iran to open the way for negotiations by complying with the requirements as set out in Resolution 1737."

18/06/07

"The Council deplores the fact that Iran has still not complied with its international obligations as reiterated in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1747. Iran has instead continued to drive forward its nuclear programme as well as further restricting its cooperation with the IAEA, thus creating further doubts as to the exclusively peaceful nature of its programme. Whilst reaffirming its commitment to finding a diplomatic solution that addresses the international community's concerns, the Council also reasserts its full support for the UNSC and its resolve, as expressed in Resolution 1747, to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should Iran continue not to comply with its international obligations.

The Council again urges Iran to respond positively to the proposals put forward by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, in their Statement of 24 March 2007. The Council also reaffirms its support for the exploratory

efforts of the High Representative of the EU, Javier Solana with Dr. Ali Larijani and strongly urges Iran to engage constructively in these consultations and to create the necessary conditions for negotiations to resume."

15/10/07

"1. The Council discussed the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme. The Council reaffirmed its support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Council gave its full backing to the efforts of the High Representative on behalf of the EU and the international community to encourage Iran to return to talks on long-term arrangements.

2. The Council underlined its continuing commitment to the comprehensive package proposed to Iran in June 2006. This package, among many elements, reaffirmed Iran's right to develop nuclear energy in conformity with its obligations under the NPT and included active support to build new Light Water Power Reactors using state of the art technology. Iran still has the option to re-enter negotiations on that basis, in line with the double track approach.

3. The Council welcomed the agreement between Iran and the IAEA to resolve all questions concerning Iran's past nuclear activities and noted that full and timely implementation by Iran of the IAEA work plan, as interpreted by the Director General's report, would constitute a significant step forward. As stated in the IAEA Director General's report, confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme requires that the Agency be able to provide assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, through the implementation of the Additional Protocol and required transparency measures. The Council urged Iran to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement, including its subsidiary arrangements, implement the Additional Protocol pending its ratification, and to provide the Agency all information and co-operation requested. Moreover, the Council expressed its hope that the Director General of the IAEA would be able to show, in his report in November, a positive outcome of his efforts in line with the requirements of the workplan agreed with Iran.

4. The Council regretted that Iran had not complied with the unanimous call of the international community to suspend all enrichment-related activity and had not accepted the offer of negotiation. The Council reaffirmed its support for Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747 and underlined that the Security Council had expressed its intention in Resolutions 1737 and 1747 to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41, Chapter VII of the UN Charter should Iran further fail to suspend its enrichment activities. The Council welcomed the 28 September statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States with the support of the High Representative of the European Union. The Council agreed that the EU will consider what additional measures it might take in order to support the UN process and the shared objectives of the international community, and invited the relevant Council bodies to provide timely advice."