



The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – a new start for diplomatic relations between the EU and Iran

In July 2015, following years of EU-led diplomacy, a historic deal was struck on Iran's nuclear programme: the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The talks were chaired by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and involved Iran, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

On 16 January 2016, known as 'Implementation Day', the EU lifted all nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions against Iran. The nuclear deal proves that diplomacy and multilateralism can work and help resolve longstanding disputes.

The EU continues to have an important role in implementing the deal through the High Representative's role as coordinator of the Joint Commission overseeing its implementation.

The EU is helping implement Annex III to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on civil nuclear cooperation, with nuclear safety projects in Iran worth over 5 million euros.

The nuclear deal has paved the way for a renewal and broadening of ties between the EU and Iran. It is already yielding positive results for both sides.

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We aim at a dialogue between the European Union and Iran that is **comprehensive in scope, cooperative in the fields where we have mutual interest, and our citizens have mutual interest, a dialogue that can be critical and open in the areas where we know we disagree, looking for common ground, and overall constructive in tone and in practice. So you can call it a “dialogue of the 4 Cs”:** **comprehensive, cooperative, critical if needed, constructive always.**

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EU High Representative and European Commission Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** during her visit to Iran in April 2016



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A new chapter
in EU-Iran relations



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Opening a new chapter in EU-Iran relations – building on the success of the nuclear deal

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action has opened a new chapter in EU-Iran relations. In April 2016 the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, led a high-level delegation to Iran. During that visit, the EU and Iran agreed to engage and cooperate in many areas. These include trade and economic relations, energy and civil nuclear cooperation, the environment, migration, drugs, human rights, humanitarian aid, transport, civil protection, education, science, culture and regional issues. In a joint statement High Representative Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif announced that regular political consultations would take place, along with specific dialogues in several of these areas.

To move cooperation forward the EU and Iran agreed to work towards opening an EU Delegation in Tehran. An EU Delegation works like an embassy. It facilitates communication between the government of the host country and the EU institutions in Brussels. The EU currently has 139 Delegations all over the world.

Reconnect the economies of Iran and the EU

The EU is a global economic power and has the world's largest single market, reaching over 500 million people. Before the nuclear-related sanctions were imposed the EU, with its 28 Member States, was Iran's main economic partner. Reconnecting the economies of the EU and Iran will increase the well-being and prosperity of Iranians and Europeans alike.

The EU supports Iran's bid to join the World Trade Organisation and will cooperate with Iran on macroeconomic and financial issues, tourism, industry and agriculture. Since the nuclear deal came into force bilateral trade between the EU and Iran has almost doubled.

The EU and Iran have also agreed to engage in a dedicated dialogue on energy and to cooperate closely on energy issues. With its significant natural gas and oil reserves, Iran can contribute to the EU's strategy of diversifying its energy sources. In turn, the EU is a reliable market for Iranian exports and can offer expertise and environment-friendly technology. The EU could therefore play a crucial role in revamping Iran's output and production capacity, and in developing its renewable energy potential.

People to people contacts

Reconnecting the people of Iran and the EU through education, tourism and cultural exchanges will help both sides understand each other better. Both Iran and Europe have remarkably rich cultures and cultural heritage which make them important to the global tourism industry.

That is why they have agreed to share their expertise in preserving cultural heritage and promoting tourism. This cultural cooperation may also involve organising expert exchange visits and special events.

In the field of education, both sides have agreed to increase Iran's participation in EU education and research programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. The EU has put extra funds into these programmes to take cooperation forward.

There will be new opportunities for bilateral cooperation between universities and research institutes across Iran and their counterparts in the 33 European countries in the Erasmus+ programme.

Global challenges

To tackle global challenges such as climate change, drugs, migration and refugee flows, the EU and Iran have agreed to cooperate on these issues.

The EU will work with Iran to address the effects of climate change and other environmental challenges. Both sides will support efforts to encourage innovation and investment in the green economy, promote sustainable energy, create jobs, improve quality of life for all people and secure a sustainable future for our planet.

Both Iran and the EU are affected by global migration trends. To share information and better manage migration flows, the two sides have agreed to start a 'Comprehensive Migration Dialogue'. This exchange is aimed at sharing approaches to regular and irregular migration, asylum seekers and refugees.

Iran is host to a high number of Afghan refugees for several decades. Since 2001 the EU has been providing support for their health, education, food security and protection.

