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F A C T S H E E T

E3/EU +3 nuclear negotiations with Iran:

Terms of the agreement on a Joint Plan of Action, including measures to be undertaken by the European Union

On 24 November in Geneva, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, together with the Foreign Ministers of the E3+3 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States), successfully concluded a meeting at which an agreement (known as the Joint Plan of Action) was reached with Iran on a first step towards a comprehensive and verifiable diplomatic solution to concerns about the Iranian nuclear programme.

What is the Joint Plan of Action?

The Joint Plan of Action is an interim agreement setting out an approach towards reaching a long-term comprehensive solution. As a first step, it includes the implementation, by both sides, of a series of voluntary measures, for a duration of six months. This first step could be renewed by mutual agreement.

A Joint Commission of the E3/EU+3 and Iran will be established to monitor the implementation of these measures, with the IAEA responsible for the verification of nuclear-related measures. The Joint Plan of Action also includes elements for the final step – i.e. the common goal of reaching a final, comprehensive solution which would lead to the full resolution of the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, along with UN Security Council resolutions.

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What has Iran voluntarily committed to undertake as a first step?

As a first step, Iran commits to undertake measures in the following areas, to address the international community's most pressing concerns regarding Iran's nuclear activities:

- suspend enrichment above 5% everywhere in Iran
- freeze its enrichment capacity (i.e. no installation of new centrifuges, no new centrifuges fed with natural uranium, production of centrifuges only for replacement of damaged machines)
- reduce significantly its stockpile of enriched uranium (all the 20% enriched uranium stockpile needs to be converted or diluted; all newly enriched below 5% uranium will be converted to uranium oxide).
- make no further advances in the development of the Heavy Water Reactor at Arak (no commissioning of the reactor, no installation of further components, no production and testing of fuel, no transfer of heavy water to the reactor).
- no reprocessing or construction of a facility capable of reprocessing.
- allow enhanced monitoring and verification measures which go beyond the current level of cooperation with the IAEA (provision of information about their nuclear facilities to the IAEA, more access for IAEA inspectors to key nuclear sites).

What have the E3/EU+3 voluntarily committed to undertake as a first step?

In response, the E3/EU + 3 will undertake the voluntary measures as specified in the [Joint Plan of Action](#). This includes measures at the level of the EU and the US, as well as the commitment not to pursue new nuclear-related UNSC sanctions. :

In this context, the European Union will undertake the following measures:

- **Not pursue new nuclear-related EU sanctions.** This commitment will be without prejudice to the full implementation of the restrictive measures which will remain in force.
- **Suspend certain nuclear-related sanctions (petrochemicals and gold and precious metals).**

The EU will suspend the prohibition on the import, purchase or transport of Iranian petrochemical products. The suspension will also cover the provision of all related services such as financing, financial assistance, insurance and reinsurance, including for third States.

The EU will suspend the prohibition on trade in gold and precious metals with the government of Iran, its public bodies and the Central Bank of Iran, or persons and entities acting on their behalf. The suspension will also cover related services such as transportation. The items concerned are listed in the EU legislation.

- **Facilitate financial transfers for non-sanctioned trade, including for humanitarian purposes, such as food and medicines**

The EU will increase tenfold all the EU authorisation thresholds with a view to allowing more financial transfers to and from Iran to be processed without authorisation requirements and therefore facilitating non-sanctioned transactions.

- **Oil sanctions**

The EU will suspend the prohibition on the provision of insurance and transport in relation to Iranian crude oil.

This suspension will allow the provision of transportation and insurance services to third states importing Iranian oil.

All these measures have a concrete potential effect for Iran which will also depend on the market forces and the reaction by economic operators, as well as Iranian domestic factors and the demand growth for the products concerned of the major trading partners.

The voluntary relief measures that the European Union has committed to provide are proportionate to the measures taken by Iran to address E3/EU+3 concerns. However, they are reversible and the core sanctions architecture on financial and oil will remain in place.

How will the first step be implemented?

On 10 January 2014 the E3/EU+3 and Iran reached a common understanding on the implementation modalities of this first step. Based on this understanding, the E3/EU+3 and Iran agreed to start the implementation of the first step of initial measures on 20 January 2014.

After the IAEA has verified the implementation of the nuclear-related measures by Iran, the Council of the EU is expected, on the recommendation of the High Representative, to adopt on 20 January 2014 the amending legislation necessary for implementing the various EU measures in terms of suspension of sanctions. The new provisions will be directly applicable in all EU Member States.

The successful and verifiable implementation of this agreement will be key to achieving a long-term diplomatic resolution of the international community's concerns over the Iranian nuclear programme.

What is meant by "elements for the final step of a comprehensive solution"?

It is important to note that the commitments made in the Joint Plan of Action are only a first step towards a more comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. It is aimed at reducing immediate tensions and creates more time and space for a comprehensive diplomatic solution.

The initial agreement does not change the fact that Iran's nuclear activities continue to be in violation of various UN Security Council Resolutions. This needs to be addressed, together

with all other outstanding issues, including those pointing to possible military dimensions to the Iranian nuclear programme, in future talks with Iran, in order to remove the doubts about the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme and to establish confidence and mutual trust.

Much work therefore remains to be done to reach an acceptable end state to the solution of the Iranian nuclear issue. But the agreement achieved in Geneva is a significant first step in response to the most urgent concerns regarding Iran's nuclear activities. If implemented swiftly and scrupulously, it can help build trust and an improved atmosphere for further and more comprehensive negotiations about Iran's nuclear activities.
