

Iran Alert

*Bertrand Russell
Peace Foundation*

In the face of ratcheting tensions, provocations and threats, efforts continue to buttress the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed with Iran.

A meeting of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA took place in Vienna on 28 June 2019. The Joint Commission was chaired on behalf of the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini by European External Action Service Secretary General Helga Schmid and was attended by China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom and Iran.

The Russell Foundation with others wrote to those attending the meeting of the Joint Commission, either directly or through their respective embassies, urging the parties to continue their vital work despite the US violating the agreement by withdrawing.

We reproduce *Iran Alert*, the letter sent to the Joint Commission, on the following pages along with a response from Denis Chaibi, Head of the Iran Task Force, on behalf of European External Action Service Secretary General Helga Schmid.

Founding President: the Earl Russell, OM, FRS (1872-1970)

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Ltd.

Recipients:

Federica Mogherini

(High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs)

Helga Schmid (Secretary General, European Union External Action)

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

(Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK)

Ambassador Alexander Vladimirovich Yakovenko

(Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the UK)

Ambassador Hamid Ba'idinejad

(Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UK)

Jean-Yves Le Drian (French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs)

Heiko Maas (German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Jeremy Hunt MP (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, UK)

IRAN ALERT

25th June 2019

Your Excellency,

The Russell Foundation, in common with others, is deeply concerned about the increasing risk of war involving the United States and Iran. A build-up of military forces threatens not only the direct combatants but also the fragile peace of the wider region and the lives of numerous civilians. By repudiating the agreement with Iran in 2018, the United States has violated the carefully constructed deal to ensure Iran remains free of nuclear weapons, notwithstanding their presence elsewhere in the region. Iran was in full compliance with the agreement, as confirmed by successive International Atomic Energy Association inspections, at the time the US withdrew. Such destructive conduct risks proliferation of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

The European Union with others rightly seeks to maintain the international agreement with Iran. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), agreed in Vienna in July 2015, seeks to 'ensure that Iran's nuclear programme will be exclusively peaceful ... Iran reaffirms that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons'.

The architects of the plan (China, France, Germany, Iran, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States with the High Representative of the European Union) anticipated that 'full implementation of this JCPOA will positively contribute to regional and international peace and security'.

The E3/EU+3 envisaged that implementation of the Plan 'will progressively allow them to gain confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's programme'. The Plan limits the scope of Iran's nuclear programme, including enrichment activities and research and development. It addresses the E3/EU+3's concerns, including through comprehensive measures providing for transparency and verification.

Over an extended period, it is envisaged the Plan will 'produce the comprehensive lifting of all UN Security Council sanctions as well as multilateral and national sanctions related to Iran's nuclear programme, including steps on access in areas of trade, technology, finance and energy'.

The withdrawal of the United States did not remove the necessity for the JCPOA approach. We urge the other seven parties to the agreement to continue their vital efforts to make it work.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Fleet
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation



Tony Simpson



Tom Unterrainer

Caroline Lucas MP, UK

Catherine Rowett MEP, UK

Commander Robert Green RN (Ret'd), New Zealand

Commander Robert Forsyth RN (Ret'd), UK

Bruce Kent, CND Vice-President, UK

Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, USA

John Hallam, People for Nuclear Disarmament, Australia

Brian Jones, CND Cymru, Wales

Marguerite Doyle Papadopoulou, Greece

Professor Andreas Bieler, UK

Ian Hewitt, UK

David Browning, UK

Response from the European External Action Service

Dear Mr Fleet,
Dear Mr Simpson,
Dear Mr Unterrainer,

The EEAS Secretary General, Ms Schmid, read with attention your recent letter regarding the US withdrawal from the JCPOA and the proliferation risks of nuclear weapons. Ms Schmid asked me to reply on her behalf.

As you pointed it out, the EU seeks to maintain the international agreement (JCPOA) with Iran, as it seeks to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme will be exclusively peaceful.

This has been confirmed by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the EU, including in the text they adopted on 4 February 2019.

In this regard, you will have seen that the EU reiterated the need for Iran to continue to implement all of its commitments, and to continue to cooperate fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA.

The European Union also welcomes and fully supports the work undertaken by the IAEA in monitoring Iran's implementation of the JCPOA. The EU welcomes Iran's commitment never to seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons.

The EU also recognised that the lifting of sanctions constitutes an essential part of the JCPOA and deeply regrets the re-imposition of sanctions by the United States, following the latter's withdrawal from the JCPOA.

In view of the above, your call to the remaining parties to the JCPOA is welcome.

Let me assure you once again that we are continuing our efforts for diplomacy to prevail.

Yours sincerely,
Dennis Chaibi
Head of the Iran Task Force
9 September 2019