Intelligence Note

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**EU**

**Nuclear Agreement - JCPOA**

BLUF: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is an agreement between Iran and the E3/EU+3 aimed at ensuring Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, and it provides for the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions. The European Union has been leading efforts to sustain the agreement despite the United States' withdrawal.  
  
The JCPOA, which was established in 2015, seeks to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons by implementing strict monitoring and verification measures. In exchange, it offers Iran relief from UN, EU, and US nuclear-related sanctions. The European Union, along with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, was an active participant in negotiating and implementing the agreement.  
  
Despite the US withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018, the European Union has continued to support and work towards preserving the agreement. This has involved developing mechanisms to facilitate economic transactions with Iran, such as the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), which allows for limited trade with Iran without violating US sanctions.  
  
The EU's efforts to sustain the JCPOA have faced challenges due to the continued disagreement with the United States. However, the EU remains committed to the agreement and continues to engage in diplomatic efforts with Iran to address any concerns and maintain its nuclear-related compliance.

[Intelligence Note or Reporting Highlights]

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**[Analyst Comment]**

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**Nuclear Agreement - JCPOA**

BLUF: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran nuclear agreement, was established in 2015 to ensure Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and allows for the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions. The European Union (EU) is committed to supporting the full implementation of the JCPOA, including the removal of sanctions and promoting trade and investment.  
  
The JCPOA was formed between Iran and the E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. It requires Iran to significantly reduce its uranium enrichment and dismantle its nuclear infrastructure, in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.  
  
The EU, along with other signatories, believes that the JCPOA is crucial for international security and non-proliferation efforts. Despite the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement in 2018, the EU remains committed to upholding the agreement and has taken measures to maintain trade and investment with Iran.  
  
The EU is working to overcome the financial and legal obstacles that have hindered transactions with Iran and is establishing a new payment mechanism called INSTEX (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges). INSTEX aims to facilitate legitimate trade with Iran and bypass US sanctions by allowing European companies to trade with Iran using euros instead of dollars.  
  
The EU continues to engage in dialogue with Iran to address concerns and ensure the full implementation of the JCPOA. The lifting of sanctions is considered vital to support economic growth and stability in Iran and maintain cooperation on non-proliferation.

**[Analyst Comment]**