[Intelligence Note or Reporting Highlights]

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**Iran**

**Iran Nuclear Deal**

BLUF: The 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, was abandoned by the US in 2018, leading to Iran's non-compliance with the deal's restrictions. Subsequent negotiations to revive the agreement have been hampered by ongoing disputes between the US and Iran.  
  
In 2015, the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA, was established to curb Iran's nuclear program by placing strict limitations and verification measures, while providing economic sanctions relief. However, in May 2018, President Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the agreement, accusing Iran of non-compliance and asserting the need for a stronger deal. In response, Iran gradually disregarded several commitments outlined in the JCPOA, including uranium enrichment limits and advanced centrifuge research.  
  
Since President Biden took office, there have been efforts to revive the JCPOA through diplomacy. Several rounds of negotiations have taken place between Iran and the remaining parties to the agreement, known as the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, and the UK), including indirect talks facilitated by the European Union. However, disagreements over the sequence of steps, the extent of sanctions relief, and demands for Iran to address its ballistic missile program and regional influence have stalled progress.  
  
The ongoing stalemate in negotiations has raised concerns about Iran's accelerated nuclear activities. Iran has gradually enriched uranium to higher levels in violation of the JCPOA, and its stockpile has multiplied. Additionally, the country has started producing uranium metal, which has potential military applications. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly expressed concerns over Iran's lack of cooperation and access to inspection sites.  
  
The future of the Iran nuclear deal remains uncertain, as finding common ground and resolving critical issues between the US and Iran continues to be challenging. The talks could potentially lead to a revived agreement that ensures Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and provides relief from sanctions, or they could face further setbacks, leading to increased tensions and an escalation of Iran's nuclear activities.

**[Analyst Comment]**

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**EU**

**JCPOA**

BLUF: The Iran nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA, was reached in 2015 to ensure Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and lift nuclear-related sanctions. However, since the US withdrawal in 2018, Iran has not fully complied with its commitments and certain EU sanctions remain in place.  
  
More Detail: The JCPOA, also referred to as the Iran nuclear deal, was signed by Iran and the E3/EU+3 group to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting nuclear-related sanctions. The aim of the agreement was to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and promote peaceful nuclear activities. However, the US withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran, a move that has led to Iran gradually reducing its compliance with the agreement's requirements. As a result, the EU Council has kept certain sanctions in place related to human rights violations and Iran's missile activities. The JCPOA remains a topic of international concern and diplomatic efforts continue to find a solution to address the current challenges and restore full compliance.

**[Analyst Comment]**