[Intelligence Note or Reporting Highlights]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**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.

**[Analyst Comment]**