



[Iran's Response to the European Union's Final Draft Text Aimed at Reviving the 2015 Nuclear Deal Offers Hope but Some Concerns Remain](#)

Iran's foreign ministry has expressed optimism as "considerable progress" has been made in the months-long talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. Formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal was reached in 2015 to limit the nuclear capabilities of Iran and ensure that the country would only use their enriched uranium for energy production and not nuclear weapons creation. Over the preceding week, the European Union (EU) sent Iran what was described as the final draft text. Iran has recently met the deadline for a response to the draft, saying that they still have some reservations with the proposed agreement. During the past few months, Iran has demanded assurances that they will be able to reap the economic benefits of a restored deal. There is understandable apprehension after former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the arrangement back in 2018. According to officials involved in the negotiations, the Iranian reply did not have any further demands with regard to investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into the origins of the nuclear materials that inspectors have found at Iranian sites. Iran has objected to this investigation and says that it must be closed if they are to agree to the nuclear deal revival. The EU proposal will allow the investigation to be closed if Iran offers credible answers.

There is currently no confirmation that Iran has accepted the proposed deal. The response delivered by Iranian officials involved in the negotiations suggests that Iran wants to continue negotiating some aspects of the deal's revival. It will remain to be seen if the European Union will be flexible with their own demands, as they had made it very clear when submitting this draft that it would be their final draft and Iran would either have to accept it or reject it. Even after this clear statement, western officials still seem open to further negotiations, as they are pleased that the Iranian reply does not sound "too inflammatory."

The United States has also been looking over the final draft text. The U.S. has agreed to the conditions laid out, but have not yet stated if they would be open to further negotiations. U.S. officials have previously said that they are "prepared to come back into compliance with the nuclear deal if Iran does the same." These recent discussions have so far been the most productive since talks to bring the United States and Iran back into the JCPOA began in April of 2021. The talks have been marred with various disagreements and roadblocks, and many analysts were pessimistic that the deal could be revived.

It is important that this deal be revived to not only prevent any further attainment of nuclear weapons, but also to reinforce the notion that the United States can play a productive and positive role in regional affairs. This would also dissuade America's rivals, namely China and Russia, from trying to fill a perceived power vacuum in global affairs and diplomacy.