



## Asia Pacific Leaders Join European Counterparts' Appeal to Protect the Iran Nuclear Deal

On 18 September, 78 European political, diplomatic and military leadership figures, members of the European Leadership Network (ELN), published a [group statement on the Iran nuclear deal](#). The statement makes the case that any unilateral US action that jeopardizes the 14 July 2015 Iran nuclear deal – the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) (JCPOA) – would harm US–Europe relations, particularly if US nuclear-related sanctions on Iran were resumed.

We believe that such developments would also cause profound damage more broadly to global nuclear orders and adversely affect the prospects for a diplomatic resolution of the North Korean nuclear crisis.

The JCPOA imposes a robust transparency, inspections and consequences regime. Iran's nuclear activities are capped under close international inspection in return for easing of sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors the arrangement.

Successfully addressing proliferation challenges strengthens the legal, moral and political authority of proliferation norms. However a failure anywhere will have repercussions everywhere, well beyond the Middle East. Nuclear threats in the Asia–Pacific region would only be heightened by any unravelling of the unique JCPOA deal backed by unprecedented levels of international verification.

This is why we, the undersigned Members of the Asia–Pacific Leadership Network (APLN), support the ELN statement calling on President Trump and the United States administration to uphold the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In mid-October, the Trump Administration will report to the US Congress on whether Iran continues to comply with the nuclear deal. Credible reports suggest that the president is looking for a way to justify declaring that Tehran is no longer in compliance with the deal.

A unilateral finding of non-compliance by the US would cast doubt on the integrity of the global nuclear monitoring system of the IAEA, which has assessed that Iran remains compliant. It would also threaten the viability of the multilaterally negotiated JCPOA, and reopen a pathway to an Iranian nuclear weapon. The cascading effect would in turn further deepen the East Asian nuclear crisis, raising doubts about the good faith commitment of the US Administration to any international negotiations to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis peacefully. This would benefit Pyongyang and damage the East Asian non-nuclear weapon states.

Accordingly, we urge President Trump and the United States Congress to address the facts of Iranian compliance on the terms of the deal, not on other points.

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Signed (61)

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