

## Joint Press Statement following today's meeting between Commissioner Arias Cañete and VicePresident Salehi, Head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI).

We met today to confirm the continuing commitment of the European Commission and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran towards the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and in particular its Annex III which addresses civil nuclear co-operation. We believe that the continuing implementation of the JCPOA, which was unanimously endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, is crucial for the development and progress of the region as well as the global peace and security.

The JCPOA represents the fruit of more than a decade of successful multilateral diplomacy which signifies the imperative of peaceful settlement of dispute and is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. The International Atomic Energy Agency has so far confirmed in ten successive reports that Iran has implemented its nuclear related commitments under the JCPOA, and, for its part, the European Union will remain committed to the continued full and effective implementation of the JCPOA, as long as Iran continues to implement its nuclear related commitments.

We also wish to take stock of the progress achieved to date, since the start of cooperation following Implementation Day on 16 January 2016. We rapidly established high level contacts between the European Commission and the AEOI, and issued in April 2016 the Joint Statement on cooperation in the field of Nuclear Energy which sets out the guiding lines of our cooperation in the implementation of Annex III. To further develop cooperation we organised high-level seminars on nuclear cooperation and governance in Brussels in February 2017 and in Isfahan in November 2017. During the latter seminar, we also adopted a Roadmap detailing future cooperation in the field of nuclear R&D. The European Commission has opened up its nuclear research programme for Iranian participation, and exchanges and visits of nuclear scientists have already taken place.

A number of ongoing projects address nuclear safety cooperation including: a project for stress testing of Iran's first nuclear power plant, Bushehr-1; a project to prepare for the establishment of a nuclear safety centre in Iran, and projects to enhance the capabilities of Iran's Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

We have also deepened working level contacts aimed at bringing nuclear safety specialists of the both sides together: Iranian specialists have participated to the bi-annual conference of the European Union's nuclear safety regulators

(ENSREG), Iranian specialists have also participated to the peer review of the stress test of a reactor under construction. Iranian specialists also were invited to the launch of the EU's SAMIRA project which addresses nonpower applications of nuclear energy and nuclear technology. Iran and the EU are currently preparing a technical seminar on the issue of third-party nuclear liability and insurance – an important element of any nuclear power programme.

The European Commission is also strongly supporting Iran's endeavours in governing the safe and responsible use of nuclear energy, including accession to the relevant international conventions.

In the spirit of close collaboration we also agreed that a third High Level seminar on nuclear cooperation will take place in Brussels at the end of November 2018.

We welcome the strengthening of ties at all levels and look forward to their further development over the coming months and years.

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## **Main topics and media events 21 May – 3 June 2018**

Overview of the main subjects to be discussed at meetings of the Council of the EU over the next two weeks.

### **Foreign Affairs Council (Trade issues), Tuesday 22 May 2018**

The Council is expected to adopt a decision recommending the opening of trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand, as well as Council conclusions on the new architecture of trade agreements. Trade ministers will also discuss the follow up to the WTO ministerial conference in Buenos Aires and the trade agreements with Japan and Singapore. Over lunch, ministers will exchange views on trade relations with the United States.

### **Foreign Affairs Council (Development issues), Tuesday 22 May 2018**

The Council will discuss the EU emergency trust fund for Africa, the post-Cotonou framework or the future of external financing instruments.

## **Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 May 2018**

The Council will discuss the potential of universities, the commercialisation of elite sports, the future of the EU youth policy and of culture after 2020. It will also adopt various sets of conclusions, including on the European Education area and on bringing cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU.

## **Economic and Financial Affairs Council, Friday 25 May 2018**

Ministers will be called on to agree measures to reduce risk in the banking sector. They will discuss macroeconomic imbalances and age-related expenditure in the member states.

## **Foreign Affairs Council, Monday 28 May 2018**

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss the the latest developments on the Iran nuclear deal. Foreign ministers will also discuss the political situation in Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as on and the future partnership between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries which is set to replace the current agreement, the Cotonou agreement, after it expires in 2020.

## **Competitiveness Council (Internal market and Industry), Monday 28 May 2018**

The Council will carry out a competitiveness check-up on the impact of the internal market on industry. It will hold discussions on mutual recognition of goods and on online platforms-to-business relations.

## **Competitiveness Council (Research and Space), Tuesday 29 May 2018**

The Council will debate on space policy, the extension of the EURATOM research programme as well as research and innovation in the context of the next EU's multiannual budget. It is due to adopt conclusions on knowledge circulation and the European Open Science Cloud. It will also take note of a report on high performance computing.

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## Weekly schedule of President Donald Tusk

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## Indicative programme – Foreign Affairs Council (Development) of 22 May 2018

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# Indicative programme – Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, 22 and 23 May 2018

Place: Europa building, Brussels  
Chair(s): Mr Krasimir Valchev, Minister for Education and Science of  
Bulgaria  
Mr. Krasen Kralev, Minister for Youth and Sports of  
Bulgaria  
Mr. Boil Banov, Minister for Culture of Bulgaria

*All times are approximate and subject to change*

## **TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018**

+/- 09.15

Doorstep by Minister Valchev

### **EDUCATION**

+/- 10.00

**Beginning of Council meeting** (Roundtable Education)

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of non-legislative A items

Adoption of legislative A items ([public session](#))

+/- 10.25

Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning

+/- 10.35

Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching

+/- 10.45

Conclusions on moving towards a vision of a European Education Area

+/- 10.55

The potential of universities for regional growth and for promoting entrepreneurial and innovative skills ([public session](#))

+/- 12.35

Any other business:

- Addressing anti-Semitism through education – guidelines for policymakers
- The European school sport day (29 September 2018)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency

## **YOUTH**

+/- 13.00

Working lunch: "Restructuring of Structured Dialogue"

+/- 14.20

**Press conference** (in Europa building) ([live streaming](#))

+/- 15.00

**Beginning of Council meeting** (Roundtable Youth)

+/- 15.15

Conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe

+/- 15.25

Conclusions on the role of youth in addressing the demographic challenges within the European Union

+/- 15.35

Future priorities for EU Youth policy ([public session](#))

+/- 17.15

Any other business

– European Youth Together

– The Franco-Belgian declaration of ministers responsible for youth on the prevention of violent radicalisation

– Work programme of the incoming presidency

## **WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2018**

+/- 09.15

Doorstep by Minister Banov

## **CULTURE**

+/- 10.00

**Beginning of Council meeting** (Roundtable Culture)

+/- 10.25

Conclusions on the need of bringing cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU

+/- 10.35

The way ahead: Long term vision for the contribution of culture to the EU after 2020 ([public session](#))

+/- 12.15

Any other business

– Directive amending Directive (2006/112/EC) as regards rates of value added tax—actively engaging in negotiations from a cultural policy perspective ([public session](#))

- Regulation on the import of cultural goods ([public session](#))
- European Capitals of Culture 2022
- Work programme of the incoming presidency

## **SPORT**

+/- 13.00

Working lunch: “The future of club and national team competitions”

+/- 14.30

**Press conference** (in Justus Lipsius building) ([live streaming](#))

+/- 15.00

**Beginning of Council meeting** (Roundtable Sport)

+/- 15.15

Conclusions on promoting the common values of the EU through sport

+/- 15.25

Commercialisation of elite sports and the sustainability of the European model of sport ([public session](#))

+/- 17.05

Any other business

- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) meetings (Montreal, 16-17 May 2018)
- Informal meeting of the EU ministers for sport (Paris, 31 May 2018) –  
Signing of a declaration for a Europe of Sport on the horizon of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Work programme of the incoming presidency

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