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JOINT STATEMENT

**by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign
Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif following
the E3/EU+3 talks with Iran**

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif, made today the following statement:

"Minister Zarif and I, together with the Political Directors of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, just finished a third round of talks in our ongoing diplomatic effort to seek a Comprehensive Agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue as envisaged in the Joint Plan of Action.

We would again like to thank the Austrian Foreign Minister and his staff as well as the United Nations for their support in hosting these negotiations in Vienna.

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Following our meetings last month, and based on the framework for the negotiations established in February, we have now held substantive and detailed discussions covering all the issues which will need to be part of a Comprehensive Agreement.

A lot of intensive work will be required to overcome the differences which naturally still exist at this stage in the process.

We will now move to the next phase in the negotiations in which we will aim to bridge the gaps in all the key areas and work on the concrete elements of a possible Comprehensive Agreement.

Our next meeting will be in Vienna from 13 May 2014."
