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The President

H.E. Dr Hassan Rouhani
President-elect
Islamic Republic of Iran

311923 11.07.2013

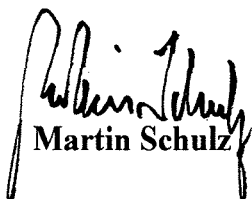
Your Excellency,

Allow me to congratulate you personally and on behalf of the European Parliament upon your election as the 7th President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I have been encouraged by the moderation and pragmatism of your statements before and after the election. This gives me confidence that under your guidance and leadership the Islamic Republic of Iran will find effective ways to address the challenges your country is facing.

The European Parliament firmly believes in the value of international dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts. I sincerely hope that your Presidency will usher in a more constructive era in the Middle East and the Gulf region, leading to concrete measures by all sides to end the conflicts and ease the tensions currently plaguing the area. In this context the European Parliament, including its Inter-Parliamentary Delegation for Relations with Iran, stands ready to contribute to open and fair discussions in good faith between the European Union and your country.

In this spirit I cordially invite you to reconsider the situation of Ms Nasrin Sotoudeh and Mr Jafar Panahi, laureates of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought. The dismissal of their sentences would be a significant symbolic gesture, the importance of which would be deeply appreciated in the European Parliament and throughout the European Union, setting the stage for further positive development of our relationship.

Yours sincerely,


Martin Schulz