As coordinator of the Joint Commission responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the High Representative/Vice-President wishes to clarify that the ongoing negotiation process aims at reaching a common understanding by the JCPOA participants of the verifiable actions needed for the United States of America (USA) to return to the JCPOA and full implementation of its sanctions-lifting commitments under the JCPOA, and for Iran to resume full implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. These negotiations do not involve any EU sanctions lifting as the EU lifted its nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions in January 2016, as part of the implementation of the provisions of the JCPOA.

The High Representative/Vice-President has therefore not called for the lifting of EU sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). As coordinator of the aforementioned Joint Commission, the High Representative/Vice-President called for the resolution of the last key outstanding issues between Iran and the USA, in order to restore the JCPOA.