The EU and its Member States stand fully behind an immediate restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The High Representative/Vice-President, in his capacity as JCPOA Coordinator, continues his intense diplomatic efforts in this regard.

The JCPOA negotiations in Vienna have been focused on the nuclear-related actions to be taken by Iran in return for specific sanctions-lifting actions to be taken by the United States.

The content of the negotiations remains confidential. At the same time, it should be beyond any doubt that the High Representative/Vice-President, in his capacity as JCPOA coordinator, will make sure that provisions contained in a possible agreement will not permit any circumvention of existing EU sanctions.

As regard to Iranian EU sanctions, it is important to recall that the EU nuclear related economic and financial sanctions related to Iran’s nuclear program were lifted in January 2016 on the JCPOA Implementation Day. Some restriction measures, which are not nuclear-related, remain into force and their implementation assured.

Regarding Russia, the EU has imposed restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimean peninsula in 2014. In 2022, in reaction to the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the EU has agreed on a wide range of restrictive measures against Russian individuals and entities. The EU and all Member States are fully committed to ensuring that these sanctions are duly implemented by natural and legal persons under the jurisdiction of the Member States of the EU. It should be recalled that EU restrictive measures should only apply in situations where links exist with the EU, as the EU refrain from adopting legislative instruments having extra-territorial application in breach of international law.