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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**  
**on EU-Iranian relations**

The European Union is concerned by recent developments in Iran which have involved accusations and threats directed at an EU Member State. These are taking place against the background of an ongoing trial of Iranian nationals which is being conducted in accordance with the principles of the rule of law in that Member State.

The judiciary in all EU Member States is independent of Governments and Parliaments. The Iranian Government has recognised this principle in relation to Germany.

The European Union would wish Iran to play a constructive role in international relations. The Union is pursuing the Critical Dialogue on the basis that it should promote this goal and create better relations between Iran and the European Union. In the context of this Dialogue, it urges Iran to restore calm in the current situation and, in particular, to discourage threats against persons involved in the trial, and also to extend any necessary protection to German citizens in Iran.

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