

Tehran summons European envoys over 'interventionist' GCC-EU statement

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned envoys from European Union member states to protest the bloc's "interventionist" statements on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf as well as the country's nuclear program. Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi criticized a joint communique issued by the bloc and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and conveyed Tehran's "strong protest" over the EU's support for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) "baseless claim" to the islands. Foreign ministers of the GCC and the EU in a joint statement on Monday repeated the UAE's claims over the three Iranian islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf, expressing concern over the lack of progress about resolving the dispute between the UAE and Iran. They also stressed the importance of

what they called ensuring the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program, and ceasing of proliferation of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles and any technologies that they claimed threaten the security of the region and beyond. European support for "baseless" remarks violates the principle of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Takht-Ravanchi said, calling the statement politically-charged and biased. Meanwhile, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned any miscalculations by enemies in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, or on the Iranian islands, will be met with a harsh and regret-inducing response.

Iran's missile program

Takht-Ravanchi also vehemently denounced allegations aimed at tarnishing Iran's missile program, calling

them "clear interference" in the Islamic Republic's internal affairs. He rejected any false claims concerning the program as "exaggerated narratives," and stressed that Iran's indigenous defensive capacities, including its missile power, were part of its inherent right to self-defense and a guarantor of regional stability and security. Elsewhere in his remarks, the senior diplomat strongly criticized the European envoys over the statement's similarly false claims about Iran's nuclear program. "Instead of repeating baseless and stereotypical accusations regarding Iran's nuclear program, the European parties should be held accountable for their own destructive conduct" that sabotaged a 2015 nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic and others, he stated. The official was referring to the move that saw the European trio of the UK, France, and Germany, which are part of the deal, suspend their trade with



Iran after the United States unilaterally and illegally left the agreement

in 2018 and returned its sanctions against Tehran.

Iran Navy, Caspian littoral states sign strategic cooperation document



International Desk

The naval commanders of the Caspian Sea littoral states signed a strategic cooperation pact aimed at bolstering security in the planet's largest inland sea and its largest lake. The agreement was signed between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan on Wednesday during a meeting of the four Caspian littoral states in the Russian city of St. Petersburg. Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, chief commander of the Iranian Navy, represented Tehran at the summit and signed the document on behalf of the country.

The agreement aims to strengthen comprehensive cooperation among the Caspian littoral states, particularly in ensuring sustainable security in the shared waters. According to the provisions of the document, no foreign country or extra-regional power will be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of the Caspian Sea. "This sea belongs to five littoral countries, and accordingly, ensuring security and issues related to the Caspian Sea can only be done by the decision of the littoral states," the navy commanders stated. Admiral Irani, who arrived in St. Pe-

tersburg on Sunday evening, delivered a speech on Tuesday at a meeting of naval commanders of the Caspian littoral countries, where he noted that the Caspian Sea "is not a place where there is room for maneuvering by extra-regional powers."

The Iranian commander said all the Caspian Sea states share the objective of maintaining regional maritime security. The Iranian commander also added that the Caspian Sea states will stage a joint naval exercise in the near future. The sea, vital for its \$3 trillion energy reserves, remains a strategic hub as Iran and Russia expand military partnership. In July, the naval forces of Iran and Russia staged a major three-day joint search-and-rescue drill in the Caspian Sea. The CASAREX 2025 was held under the banner "Together for a Safe and Secure Caspian Sea."

'Baseless hype': Pezeshkian raps US-Europe claims on Iran's nuclear program

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underscored the Islamic Republic's all-time resolve to pursue peace and security in the West Asia region, saying Tehran has never sought nuclear weapons based on its fundamental policies and principles. Pezeshkian made the statement on Tuesday evening as he received the credentials of the new Swiss ambassador to the Islamic Republic, Olivier Bangerter, whose country also represents US interests in Iran. Acknowledging Switzerland's historical role as a communication channel between Tehran and Washington since the 1979 victory of the Islamic Revolution, Pezeshkian urged Bangerter to convey the fact to American officials that Iran has never sought nuclear weapons, and has adhered instead to the country's entrenched precepts and tenets. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought regional stability, peace, and security, and the propaganda and baseless hype against Iran's peaceful nuclear program by the US and some European countries lack any real basis," the president said. "You need to try to convey this fact to American officials that the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its fundamental principles and policies, has never been and is not seeking nuclear weapons." Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for Switzerland's cooperation, not least in the pharmaceutical and food sectors, amidst the challenges posed by unjust sanctions of the United States and certain European countries. The Iranian president also censured the Israeli regime's actions against Palestinians in the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) reviews the credentials of the new Swiss ambassador to Tehran, Olivier Bangerter, on October 7, 2025.

besieged Gaza Strip, stressing that the occupying entity is the primary cause of regional instability. "The regime's behavior is the main cause of instability in the region. Its attacks on regional countries and unprecedented crimes against Palestinians are neither humane nor legal, and are incompatible with any religion or belief," Pezeshkian said. Bangerter, for his part, voiced his delight over the commencement of his mission in Iran and outlined his key objectives, which he said include enhancing bilateral relations and fortifying Switzerland's role as a reliable communication channel between Tehran and Washington. "I will spare no effort in achieving these goals, and at the same time, I will strive to show [to the world] the culture, history, and hospitality of the Iranian nation in the best possible way."

Araghchi to Trump: Doubling down on failed policies not to resolve issues



Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated that Iran's nuclear issue could only be resolved through a negotiated solution, warning the United States against repeating past miscalculations about the Islamic Republic. In a post on his x account on Tuesday, Araghchi revealed new details about the near success of previous nuclear negotiations with Washington, noting that Tehran and US envoy Steve Witkoff had been on the verge of a "new and historic" agreement before political interference and misinformation derailed the process.

"Upon embarking for a 5th round of talks with Steve Witkoff on May 23, I wrote: 'Zero nuclear weapons = we DO have a deal. Zero enrichment = we do NOT have a deal,'" Araghchi wrote. "If POTUS was to glance at the minutes of those talks — recorded by our interlocutor — he would see just how close we were to celebrating a new and historic Iran nuclear deal," he said. In his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister pointed to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 on the pretext of the Arab country's development of weapons of mass destruction. "POTUS should also recall that there was never any 'intelligence' that Iraq was hiding WMDs. There were only unfathomable destruction, thousands of dead American soldiers, and 7 trillion American taxpayer dollars down the drain," Araghchi said. Araghchi compared the current approach to that period, noting, "Likewise, there is no 'intelligence' showing that Iran was a month away from developing nuclear weapons had Israel not deceived the US into attacking the Iranian people."

He said the Israeli regime, after the failure of that operation, "is now trying to fabricate an imaginary threat out of Iran's defensive capabilities," while "Americans are tired of fighting Israel's endless wars." Underscoring Iran's resilience, Araghchi said, "Iran is a great nation, the heir to a great ancient civilization. Buildings and machinery may be destroyed, but our willpower will never be shaken. Insisting on such miscalculations will solve nothing. There is no solution other than reaching a negotiated one." On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States also entered the war by bombing three peaceful Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

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