

**Pezeshkian: Anti-Iran onslaught to be reciprocated with 'decisive' response**



2 >

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## 'Irrational': Iran pillories EU for IRGC designation

2 >

### EU's strategic miscalculation



By Rasoul Mousavi  
Former Iranian ambassador to Finland, Estonia

#### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

On Thursday, at the close of a meeting of European Union foreign ministers, Kaja Kallas of Estonia, the European Union's foreign policy chief, outlined four issues in a brief two-minute interview, which included the designation of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist organization" by EU member states, assistance aimed at improving conditions in Syria, support for efforts to establish peace in Gaza, and sanctions against both sides in the Sudan conflict. Kallas said EU foreign ministers had decided, with the aim of pressuring the Iranian government and supporting Iranian civil society, to place the IRGC on the terrorist list of member states.

In response to a journalist's question asking whether listing the IRGC amounted to EU support for a US military strike on Iran, Kallas said that declaring the force a terrorist organization meant its activities would fall under the criminal laws of member states, adding that the region did not need another war.

Placing the Guards on the EU's discredited terrorist list is not new and was first raised more than two years ago. At that time, I personally suggested to the late FM Hossein Amir-Abdollahian that if Europeans persisted with such rhetoric, Iran might assign responsibility for the security of European embassies in Tehran to the IRGC, so that Europeans would understand how their security in Tehran was ensured.

[Page 8 >](#)



**AEOI:** Two 5,000-MW nuclear plants planned with capital market financing

3 >



**Iran beats Saudi Arabia to reach Futsal Asian Cup knockouts**

6 >



**Minister urges expansion of cultural infrastructure as participation rates lag**

8 >

### **Araghchi: Tehran ready for talks but not to accept 'dictation'**

**Turkish FM: Israel pushing US to attack Iran**

2 >



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan hold a joint press conference in Istanbul, Turkey on January 30, 2026.



### Turkey's mediation bid driven by goodwill, necessity

#### INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



As tensions between Iran and the United States have reached a sensitive juncture, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has floated a proposal to host direct talks between the presidents of the two countries, in an effort to prevent the crisis from escalating and avert a military confrontation. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also traveled to Istanbul and may convey Tehran's response to the proposal. Ankara has repeatedly stated its opposition to any form of foreign intervention in Iran. Speaking to

**Iran Daily**, Turkey affairs expert Firouz Dolatabadi said Turkey's effort is driven both by goodwill and necessity, but added that effective mediation is impossible, not only for Turkey, but for others as well, due to US overreach and its refusal to moderate its positions.

**IRAN DAILY:** What political and security considerations have prompted Ankara to step forward with such an initiative at this point?

**DOLATABADI:** Both goodwill and necessity are the two factors driving Turkey's inclination to engage in this process. Goodwill stems from the fact that the Turks do not have a clear assessment of the outcomes of the 12-day war [in June], and the wave of propaganda by the United States and Israel, along with

anti-Iran groups, has made them deeply apprehensive about the consequences of another conflict. The second factor is necessity, because Turkey, after suffering heavy setbacks in its foreign policy in Syria and Libya, and due to the lack of support from Arab and American countries as a result of the strongly Muslim Brotherhood-oriented tendencies of its leaders, finds itself in a dangerously isolated position. This proposal puts forward a softer image of Turkey at the regional and global levels, and Ankara believes it could create a new position for itself in the most strategic global issue — namely, Iran's disputes with the United States and Israel.

Turkey simultaneously maintains extensive relations with Iran, the United States, and NATO. Does this position enable Ankara to

play the role of an effective mediator? Can Turkey move beyond making a merely symbolic proposal?

An effective mediation role is almost impossible, both for Turkey and for others, because the United States is seeking to realize illegitimate demands that go far beyond the nuclear issue, and experience so far has shown that mediators' efforts have come to nothing. The United States expects mediators primarily to increase pressure on Iran to accept Washington's demands and to persuade Tehran to acquiesce to unjust conditions, rather than to broker an agreement. Otherwise, the United States and Trump would not have torn up the JCPOA [2015 nuclear deal] and withdrawn from an agreement that was more beneficial to them.

[Page 3 >](#)

