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Summary of remarks by Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, after the meeting with Saeed JALILI, Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council on the Iranian nuclear issue

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), met today with the Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, Saeed JALILI, in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr SOLANA was accompanied by senior diplomats from China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. This is a summary of the press conference and additional comments to the press:

"Let me first thank the Swiss Government for offering to facilitate this meeting and hosting these talks. We have had a full-day of constructive and productive work based on the generous and comprehensive offer which I presented in Teheran on 14 June 2008, five weeks ago today, as well as on the way forward. I want to thank Dr JALILI for the talks today.

Nevertheless, I must say that we have not yet received a clear answer. We did not get a "yes" or a "no". Now, we expect to have that clear answer and to have it in about two weeks time.

I hope very much that after the exchange of views today, Dr JALILI will go back to Iran and convey our discussions to the leadership in order to see if we can get that positive answer. They have presented a long paper, on modalities, which is not the reply to the question we had posed.

We are offering to refrain from any new action in the United Nations Security Council; and in return we expect Iran to refrain from any new nuclear activity. In particular, not to increase the number of centrifuges. An answer for this is required.

We hope very much that the Iranian people will understand the opportunity that our proposal opens for them and that we are offering cooperation and to avoid confrontation."