

Iran's UK ambassador says it is impossible to renegotiate nuclear deal



London, November 3 (RHC)-- Speaking at the famous Oxford Union debating society, Iran's ambassador to the UK has revealed the extensive efforts made by European nations to counter anti-Iran U.S. sanctions. Ambassador Hamid Baeidinejad addressed Oxford students on the topic of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal.

Explaining Iran's current position on the JCPOA, he said: "The aspiration that we have with the European Union, Britain, France and Germany, China and Russia, is that we keep the Iran Nuclear Deal alive and give time to the U.S. to rethink and revise its position."

However, he emphasized that any idea of changing or renegotiating the nuclear deal would be "impossible" because if one word is changed other aspects of the deal will either be changed or compromised.

Ambassador Baeidinejad played a leading role in the negotiation process from 2013-15 and has since worked to protect the deal from US attempts to undermine it.

The ambassador admitted that “we have a total loss of confidence” in negotiating with the U.S. after their withdrawal from the JCPOA, but added that “we are trying very hard with European countries, with China and Russia, to find mechanisms that this deal could (still) be effectively implemented.”

The Iran Nuclear Deal is a preliminary framework agreement reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and a group of world powers known as the P5+1. The group included the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: the United States, Britain, Russia, France, and China, plus Germany and the EU. The deal was agreed under the Presidency of Barack Obama, but once Donald Trump took power in 2017 the US withdrew from the JCPOA and is due to enforce new sanctions on Iran with the aim of stopping Iran from trading.

The ambassador said: “There will be pressure against some countries, particularly European countries, and economic and trade institutions from attempting to enter into working with Iran, there will probably be some risks.” However, he said that he remains sure that there is “total determination” by European countries and other world partners to find “practical solutions” so that the deal will be kept alive.

When asked if the UK has remained independent from Washington's hostile position towards the deal, the ambassador said: “Let me confess that we were not really optimistic that (the UK) can keep their position independent but they have remained so, they have tried to be independent and we have seen that they are making real efforts to convince the U.S. that this is not a good policy.”

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