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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2024)

The EU has responded strongly to the human rights violations and repressions by the Iranian authorities and has set out its policy towards Iran in Council conclusions of December 2022¹. The EU will continue to consistently use all diplomatic opportunities to voice and express consistently the EU position on the human rights situation in the country.

The EU has implemented several sanctions packages² targeting individuals and entities for their involvement in serious human rights violations. Moreover, the EU consistently supports the Iranian people's fundamental desire for a future where their universal rights and freedoms are respected and upheld.

The EU continues to engage directly with Iranian authorities in order to prevent executions from being carried out, including for Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani, as well as other cases. The EU has a clear, strong and long-standing opposition to the death penalty. It violates the inalienable right to life as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and represents the ultimate denial of human dignity. It also fails to act as a deterrent to crime and makes any miscarriage of justice irreversible. The EU consistently calls on Iran to respect due process rights for the accused and ensure that those in detention or imprisonment are not subjected to mistreatment.

The EU will continue to voice its firm opposition to the death penalty with Iranian authorities, in all contexts and under all circumstances.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/12/iran-council-approves-conclusions/>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-iran/>