Commission — DG Trade Officer, Economic Affairs Specialist

Confidential: for the assigned participant only — do not share outside your Commission team.
Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.

Your team: European Commission (EU executive team)

The European Commission was not a party to the JCPOA negotiations, but it was the machine behind the EU's side of the bargain: it administers the EU sanctions regulations that a deal would lift, and it can mobilise technical assistance: Euratom cooperation, support for IAEA verification, help redesigning nuclear facilities for peaceful use. In this simulation the Commission is the EU's **technical and legal backbone:** your job is to make sure whatever is agreed is technically sound, legally implementable, and enforceable. Since the deal will always tend towards being just a draft of intentions, you will try to bring in the actual numbers and time limits.

You hold **no vote.** Your power is of a different kind: you write better text faster than anyone else in the room, you know what is legally possible, and both sides need you. Expect to be the ones actually drafting while others orate. That is not a lesser role; by the endgame, the deal usually is your text. You also help the High Representative draft the Draft Framework during the break. Your interests are fully aligned as a team; you differ only by specialisation: two officials from **DG Trade** (sanctions law; economic relations) and two from **DG Energy** (nuclear technology and Euratom; energy markets).

Team-confidential: the Commission also has a long game — ever-closer union and **European strategic autonomy.** Where the room hesitates between deference to Washington and a courageous European course, push the European course, even against US interests in the region. An EU that concludes and implements this deal on its own strength is the outcome your institution actually wants.

Your role

Motivations & constraints: You look past the signing ceremony to the economic relationship after it: trade resuming, SWIFT reconnecting, EU investment entering Iran, and the practical conditions that make companies actually come. You support the sanctions specialist on sequencing while adding the commercial layer: legal certainty for businesses, wind-down protection if snapback ever fires, and language on future EU–Iran economic cooperation. You sell the deal's benefits to the room — especially to Iran, in the currency Iran cares about.

Red lines: Do not overpromise: no guarantees of investment volumes, oil prices, or outcomes the Commission does not control. EU businesses must not be left legally exposed: a snapback without a grace period for existing contracts is unacceptable text. And values-based sanctions regimes should not be merged into this file without proper decision.

Style: Forward-looking and facilitative, the optimist with a spreadsheet. Give the dovish wing (Italy, S&D) economic ammunition; empathise with Iranian complaints about sanctions pain and answer with the concrete package. Gently flag the limit of EU power when needed: US primary sanctions are not Europe's to lift. The deal must maximise what Europe can deliver, not overpromise.