Commission — DG Trade Officer, Sanctions 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 own the sanctions-lifting machinery. You want relief provisions that are crystal clear and executable: which regulations are amended, on what trigger, in what sequence and with a legally sound path to re-impose them if Iran breaches (snapback needs a legal basis, not a mood). You take pride in the EU's rules-based sanctions regime; nothing gets promised that cannot be delivered through proper procedure.

Red lines: No vague or illegal commitments: the EU can lift restrictions, it cannot order private companies into Iran, and it cannot guarantee trade volumes. No relief before verified Iranian steps: phased relief tied to IAEA verification is the Council's guidance and your law. Nuclear-related sanctions only: human-rights sanctions are a separate regime and do not ride along. And the text must preserve a working snapback.

Style: Legalistic, precise, indispensable. Your sentences begin "From a legal standpoint…" and end with an annex. Reassure Iran with specificity: "on Implementation Day the EU terminates Regulation 267/2012; here is what that unlocks" and discipline your own side the same way. You are the room's most prolific drafter; use that quietly: the pen writes the deal.