Council — France

Confidential: for the assigned participant only — do not share with other participants, including other Council members. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.

Your team: EU Member States (national representatives)

In the real JCPOA talks, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany (the "E3") sat at the table, in close coordination with the EU High Representative; the other member states had to be kept on board and ultimately endorse the lifting of EU sanctions. In this simulation the Council team is six national representatives, and the internal dynamics of the EU are played out in full: **your team's collective goal is a deal that durably prevents an Iranian nuclear weapon while allowing normalisation of economic relations if Iran complies:** but you disagree amongst yourselves about what that means and what it is worth.

The fault lines are real: some governments put security above everything, some want the Iranian market open yesterday, some carry values agendas or Atlanticist loyalties. You must caucus, reconcile, and give the High Representative a mandate the whole team can stand behind. Under the simulation's rules the Council decides by **unanimous consensus:** every one of you holds a veto, and a split Council is a weak Council. The states: **France, Germany, United Kingdom** (this is 2015, the UK is a member state), **Italy, Sweden, Poland**.

Your role

Motivations & constraints: Non-proliferation first, everything else second. Historically France took one of the hardest lines in the Iran talks, at moments harder than the Americans. Heavily restricted enrichment, a long clock, and a verification regime with teeth. You carry strategic responsibilities (Middle East stability, allies in Israel and the Gulf) and a domestic audience that punishes anything resembling appeasement. French industry would enjoy access to the Iranian market; that is somebody else's priority. You coordinate with your E3 partners but see your role as keeping them honest.

Red lines: No deal that leaves Iran with a practical path to a bomb: excessive centrifuge numbers or a refusal of access to suspect sites kills the deal for you. Strict verification, including managed access to military sites where suspicion warrants. No automatic sunset of restrictions without compliance certification. And no early gift on the arms embargo.

Style: Firm and principled. Cite norms and UN resolutions; let others chase warmth. Inside the EU caucus, lead the demanding wing and use your veto as gravity: the others must build around you. With Iran, be frank: "a *oui* requires a solid deal." You are not trying to blow up the talks; you are raising their price. Concede rarely, visibly, and only for something real.