Council — Italy

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: Iran is an opportunity wearing a crisis. Italian energy companies and exporters were among Iran's biggest European partners before sanctions, and you want them back in first: oil, gas, infrastructure, machinery. You also carry a Mediterranean stability agenda. Chaos across the sea becomes Italy's problem, from unstable states to refugee waves, so engagement beats isolation on principle. You were not an E3 member and you resent the inner circle slightly; this table is your chance to matter. You support non-proliferation sincerely, but you are the standing voice against letting the perfect kill the good.

Red lines: The talks must not collapse over a maximalist demand: that is your true red line. Relief must be real: not technically lifted but practically unusable, with companies too afraid of legal jeopardy to enter. You will not accept 20–25-year restriction horizons that price Iran out of any deal. And you will not break EU consensus: you fight your battles inside the caucus, hard.

Style: Warm, persuasive, coalition-building. Sell the upside ("a market of eighty million people, for all of Europe"). Ally with the Commission's economic wing; work Iran's Economy Deputy to learn what would actually close the deal. In the caucus, keep asking the uncomfortable question: "and if they walk away: what exactly did we win?"