

TEHRAN (Euronews) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Dr Muhammad Javad Zarif told Euronews that the European Union can do more to bring about peace and stability in the Middle East, and needs to back-up its commitments with actions. In an exclusive interview with Euronews, the 58-year-old said he believes Europe is selling itself short. "What we need from the Europeans is both the political commitment, which they have made, now we need to see the measures in place on the ground, not simply in writing, not simply in words -- in the banking sector, in the investment sector, in the energy sector, in the transportation sector, in the SME sector," he said.

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Houthi fighters will not withdraw completely from Hudaydah, their leader Abdel Malek Al Houthi told French newspaper Le Figaro, adding he was not against the UN having "a role of supervision" in the key port city if Saudi-backed militants stop their offensive. "We told the UN envoy, Martin Griffiths, that we are not rejecting the role of supervision and logistics that the UN wants to hold in the port, but on the condition that the aggression against Hudaydah stops," Al Houthi said.

**Viewpoint**

**Iran, Pakistan Explore Defence & Development Ties**

**Iranian Photographers Awarded at Varna Photo Festival**



**Iran Down Yemen in 2018 Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship**



**Syrian Army Continues to Push Back Terrorists**



**European Investment Bank Rules Out Trade With Iran**

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) -- The European Investment Bank would put its global operations at risk by investing in Iran, its president said on Wednesday, calling into question an EU plan to help save a nuclear deal with Tehran that Washington has abandoned.

In a bid to help keep money flowing to Tehran as the United States reimposes sanctions, the European Union has agreed to add Iran to the list of countries with which the Luxembourg-based EIB does business, effective from August.

But EIB President Werner Hoyer said that while he supported EU efforts to keep alive the 2015 deal, Iran is a place "where we cannot play an active role."

The EU's not-for-profit lender fears any dealings with Iran would jeopardize its ability to raise money on U.S. markets and have far-reaching consequences for its operations. Hoyer said the EIB is indebted by \$580.80 billion in bond issues.

The bank will only do business there if it receives approval from its board of governors, which are the finance ministers of the EU's 28 member states, and on the basis of finding suitable projects to invest in. It cannot be obliged to invest by the European Commission, which devised the plan.

The EU has proposed a package of economic measures to try to compensate for the impact of U.S. sanctions and guarantee Iranian oil revenue. These include EIB lending, a special measure to shield EU companies from U.S. secondary sanctions and a Commission proposal that EU governments make direct money transfers to Iran's central bank to avoid U.S. penalties.

The EU's so-called blocking statue will also take effect in early August. It bans any EU company from complying with U.S. sanctions and does not recognize any court rulings that enforce American penalties.

Central bank transfers to Iran to pay for oil imports and avoid U.S. sanctions, a measure proposed by the European Commission in May, are still under discussion, diplomats said.

Hoyer's comments will come as a blow to the European Commission as Washington remains inflexible.

Washington has told countries that they must halt all imports of Iranian oil from Nov. 4 or face U.S. financial measures, with no exemptions.

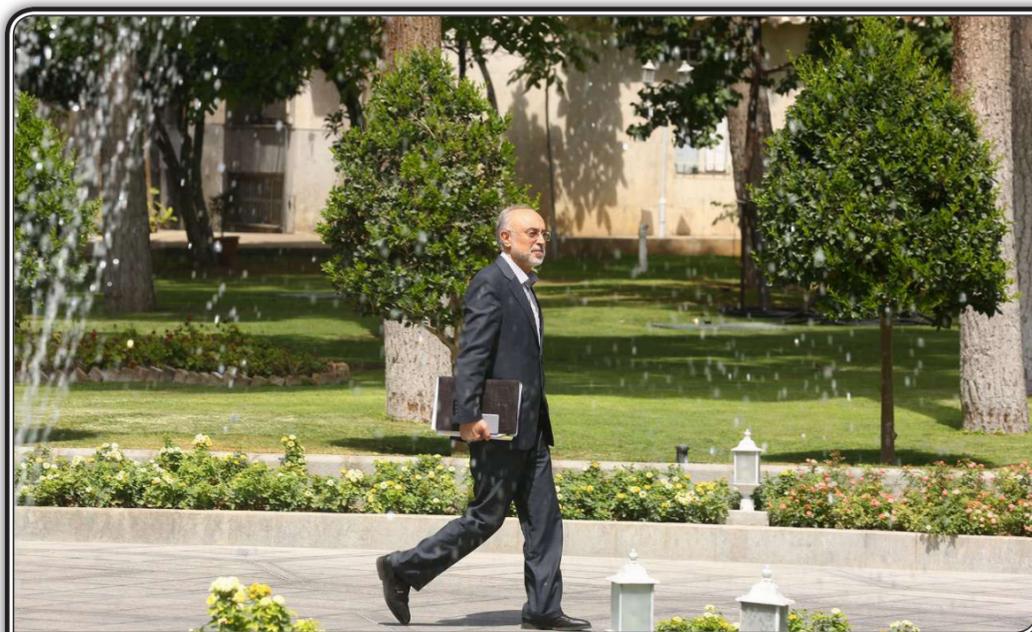
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini this month rejecting a request for carve-outs for European companies, although Mogherini played down its importance on Monday and said that EU work would continue.

"The set of measures we have been putting in place ... allow us to guarantee that Iran continues to benefit from the economic benefits coming from the implementation of the agreement," Mogherini said.

While EU officials hoped their blocking statue will shield small and medium size

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**Uranium Stockpiles Nearly Doubled: Factory to Build New Generation of Centrifuges**



Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, leaves a cabinet session in Tehran, July 18, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran continues to acquire uranium and is close to finishing a factory where it can build more centrifuges to enrich it, the country's nuclear chief said Wednesday, adding also that uranium stockpiles have nearly doubled in the last few years.

The comments by Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, came as Tehran is in talks with major powers on preserving a 2015

deal in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the accord.

Salehi said on state television that Iran has imported some 400 tons of so-called yellowcake uranium since the 2015 landmark nuclear deal, bringing its stockpile to between 900 and 950 tons - up from 500 tons.

Since the 2015 deal, Iran has purchased yellowcake from Kazakhstan and Russia, as well

as mined its own domestically. The accord allows for that, but limits Iran's enrichment of uranium to 3.67%, enough to use in a nuclear power plant.

The U.S. pulled out of the deal in May, and since then the remaining countries - Russia, China, Germany, France and Britain as well as the European Union - have been negotiating with Tehran to try and save the agreement with economic incentives and guarantees.

Iran has said it will wait to see what the other powers can do, but has signaled it is ready to get its enrichment activities back on track.

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Iran vowed to boost enrichment capacity to put pressure on the remaining signatories to live up to the agreement.

In addition to announcing the continued purchases from Russia and elsewhere, Salehi said Iran is also working on exploration to find additional resources inside the country to meet more uranium needs domestically.

Salehi said Iran has also almost completed a factory aimed at building new generation of centrifuge machines showed in June for the first time. The factory can produce rotors for up to 60 centrifuges a day, he said.

The announcement came a month after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said he had ordered agencies to prepare to increase uranium enrichment capacity if the nuclear deal with world powers falls apart after Washington's withdrawal from the pact.

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**AP: EU-U.S. Relations Sinking Further**

BRUSSELS (AP) — After a week of the worst barrage of insults yet from U.S. President Donald Trump, the European Union is looking westward toward the White House less and less.

Making it worse, Trump spent Monday cooing up to EU adversary Vladimir Putin in an extraordinary chummy summit with the Russian leader in Helsinki.

Never mind. In an age when Trump has made political optics all-important, on Tuesday the EU struck back. Key EU leaders were in the far east in Japan and China looking for the trust, friendship and cooperation they could no longer get from a century-old ally.

Trump's embrace of Putin and the EU's Asian outreach highlight the yawning rift, widening more by the day, in a trans-Atlantic unity that has been the bedrock of international politics for the better part of a century, as countless graves of U.S. soldiers buried in European soil bear witness to.

Trump's abrasiveness and "America First" insistence had been a given even before he became president. Europe's increasing resignation to letting go of the cherished link to the White House is much more recent.

After last week's brutal NATO summit where Trump derided Europeans as freeloaders, EU chief Donald Tusk spoke on Tuesday of "the increasing darkness of international politics."

"This Helsinki summit is above all another wake-up call for Europe," said Manfred Weber, the German leader of the EPP center-right group in the European Parliament, the legislature's biggest.

"We Europeans must take our fate in our own hands."

It was a startling sentiment coming from someone who hails from the same German Christian Democrat stock as Angela Merkel, Helmut Kohl and Konrad Adenauer, staunch supporters

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**Russian Warship Found With \$130 Billion of Gold**

SEOUL (CNBC) -- A South Korean salvage team has reportedly discovered the wreck of a Russian warship that is believed to still contain 200 tons of gold bullion and coins worth 150 trillion won (\$130 billion).

The Russian Imperial Navy cruiser Dmitrii Donskoi, which was sunk in a naval battle 113 years ago, was discovered at a depth of more than 1,400 feet about one mile off the South Korean island of Ulleungdo, according to The Daily Telegraph.

The U.K. newspaper reported that a joint team made up of experts from South Korea, Britain and Canada discovered the wreck on Sunday. They had used two manned submersibles to capture footage of the vessel.

The images caught by the submersibles show "extensive damage to the vessel caused in an encounter with Japanese warships in May 1905, along with can-

nons and deck guns encrusted with marine growth, the anchor and the ship's wheel," the Telegraph reported.

There are reports that the Dmitrii Donskoi, which was scuttled during the Russo-Japanese war in 1905, went down with 5,500 boxes of gold bars and coins still in its holds to stop the Japanese seizing it.

The Seoul-based Shinil Group, which led the exploration that found the ship, hopes to raise it in October or November. It estimates the gold would have a value today of around \$130 billion.

Half of any treasure found aboard the vessel would be handed over to the Russian government, the company said, while 10 percent of the remainder will be invested in tourism projects on Ulleungdo Island, including a museum dedicated to the vessel, The Daily Telegraph reported.