

As you say, much of the relations between Iran and the US has been shaped by mistrust. For decades, the US have been interfering with political relations in Iran, they have supported or overturned governments, according to their interests, which mainly means economic interests. Deep rifts have formed on both sides. Of course it has been easy, in the time before President Rohani, to demonize Iran. In particular, during the Ahmadinejad era great damage has been done and the international isolation of Iran has been advanced. This has also made the struggle for human rights in Iran more difficult.

Let me put it like this: We in Europe have a long tradition of economic relations with Iran. The "old aunt" Europe knows a lot about mentality and history of "old aunt" Iran. Because we know each other for a long time we should revive our relations in a diligent manner. This of course includes talking openly about the problems that need to be tackled. Ultimately, this could also be a way to improve relations with the US.



The EU and European states want clear signs from Iran that friendship will be the tone of the future. We know that Iran has a dynamic young population who want to engage with the world, and we should be ready to engage with them. This is the message that the US must be given from Europe. There is no US agent behind every European foreign minister, and the Iranian authorities know that trust is easier to build with Europeans than with the US. We will relay.



Despite of our common approach with the US, in the EU there are different procedures regarding the policy toward Iran, including imposing sanctions. The EU shares the same concerns and many times works in the same manner that the US, but it cannot be said that the EU is dependent on the US in the foreign policy area. For instance, contradictory to the American approach, the EU decided to lift some sanction such as frozen financial assets.

