

## If the nuclear deal stays, it stays in full, says Rouhani

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.AP

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani rejected any hopes of rewriting a nuclear deal with world powers on Wednesday, after the leaders of the U.S. and France called for a new pact covering Tehran's missile programme and regional interventions.

"We have an agreement called the JCPOA," said Mr. Rouhani in a fiery speech, using the technical name for the 2015 deal that curbed Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. "It will either last or not. If the JCPOA stays, it stays in full." He was responding to statements in Washington by French President Emmanuel Macron and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump, in which they proposed a new deal with tougher restrictions on Iran.

Mr. Trump called the existing accord "insane" and "ridiculous", despite European pleas for him not to walk away, and demanded fresh curbs on Iran's ballistic missile programme.

Mr. Macron on Wednesday called on the U.S. not to abandon the nuclear agreement until a broader international accord is reached that addresses all remaining U.S. and European concerns. He told Congress that the current deal was not perfect but must remain in place until a replacement was forged.

In Iran, Mr. Rouhani ridiculed Mr. Trump, saying: "You have no expertise in politics, nor in law, nor in international accords. A tradesman, a businessman, a high-rise builder, how can he judge about global issues?"

### EU, Moscow back Tehran

Iran has the support of all other parties to the accord, who say it is working and Tehran has stuck to its commitments. On Wednesday, EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini insisted the deal must be maintained.

Moscow also reiterated its support, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov telling reporters: "We believe that no alternative exists so far" and demanding that Iran be involved in any further discussions.

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