
If US scraps Iranian nuclear deal, it 'could mean war' – French President Macron

07/05/2018



French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that the US pulling out of the nuclear deal with Iran “could mean war.” Trump has until May 12 to either re-certify the deal or dump it, as he has repeatedly threatened.

Scrapping the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran “*would mean opening Pandora’s box, it could mean war,*” according to an undated quote from Macron [provided](#) in the latest Der Spiegel magazine edition.

However, the worst-case scenario may not in fact materialize, as the French leader said he does not believe that US President Donald Trump is really seeking a military conflict.

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US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), branding it the “*worst deal ever*” and urging parties to “*fix*” it. Following the recent visit of Macron to the US, Trump boasted that he changed the French President’s stance on the deal, stating that “*he is viewing Iran a lot differently than he did before he walked into the Oval Office.*”

While France, the UK and Germany, the European signatories to the deal, who had firmly opposed Trump’s attempts to “*fix*” it, did not join Trump’s drive against it, they seemingly have amended their position. They now want to address “*important elements that the deal does not cover,*” including Iran’s ballistic missile program, as well as its activities in the region.

Tehran, however, maintains that the 2015 agreement is not subject to re-negotiation, as it fully adheres to it. Iran’s compliance with the terms of the deal, which obliged the country to drastically curb its nuclear activities, has been repeatedly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors the JCPOA’s implementation. Trump however, argued, that Tehran somehow violated “*the spirit*” of the deal.

As the deadline for Donald Trump to recertify the deal or withdraw from it approaches (it’s set for May 12), the situation around the JCPOA gets more and more heated. Earlier this week, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu presented a large batch of materials, said to be documents on the Iranian nuclear program, acquired by the country’s intelligence.

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Netanyahu [claimed](#) that the documents proved that Tehran has preserved a military nuclear program within the confines of the JCPOA. The premier summarized the intelligence findings as “*Iran lied, big time.*” Tehran firmly rejected the allegations, [calling](#) Netanyahu himself a “*broke and infamous liar.*”

On Sunday, Iran once again warned the US against breaking the nuclear deal, with President Hassan Rouhani saying that “*if the United States leaves the nuclear agreement, you will soon see that they will regret it like never before in history.*”