

Paris, 15th March 2010

Mrs Minister,

Iran has regularly been jamming the broadcasting by satellite of a number of foreign television and radio stations, including two European stations, BBC Persia and Deutsche Welle, since December 2009 - a repetition of its practice in the run up to the disputed elections earlier that year.

This jamming culminated on 11 February 2010, the date of Iran's national day, and affected nearly 70 foreign radio and television services being retransmitted via a satellite owned by the company Eutelsat.

The objective was clearly to prevent the people of Iran from freely exercising their right to information.

Moreover, this runs counter to the undertakings given by Iran itself in the context of the International Union of Telecommunications (IUT).

Despite complaints made to the Iranian authorities through the IUT, they have not taken the steps required to put an end to this jamming, which originates on their national territory.

H.E. Mrs Catherine ASHTON
High representative/ Vice President of the European Union


Given this situation, we cannot remain silent. It seems to us to be essential that the European Union should make known in the strongest possible terms its condemnation of such unacceptable actions.


To that end, we have the honour of proposing to you that a declaration be adopted at the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 March strongly condemning the attitude of the Iranian authorities, calling on them to cease the jamming immediately, and underlining the determination of the European Union to define and to apply strong measures that may be implemented if an end is not put to this electronic interference.


It seems to us also necessary, and in compliance with the proposals of the Secretariat of the Council of the 22 of February, to carry out an assessment in the appropriate European fora of what has to be done to limit and even forbid the transfer of goods and technologies that can contribute, directly or indirectly, to the apparatus of control, censorship and repression of the Iranian regime against its population.

We are also sending this letter to H.E. Mr Moratinos and copy it to all Ministers of Foreign affairs of the European Union.

Yours sincerely.


Bernard KOUCHNER


David MILIBAND


Guido WESTERWELLE