

MEPs Call for Action to Protect Iranian Protesters while PaykanArtCar Issues Open Letter to Von Der Leyen

(Brussels, Belgium) — MEPs have urged the European Union to provide more support to Iranian protestors as part of a panel event organised yesterday by the European Parliament in collaboration with human rights organisation, PaykanArtCar, which has also issued an [open letter](#) to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, to take action to prevent further atrocities by the Iranian regime.

The discussion featured MEPs Radosław Sikorski, David Lega, Bart Groothuis, Fabio Massimo Castaldo and Member of the Belgian Parliament Darya Safai. Bruno Scholl, Head of the EU's Iran Task Force at the European External Action Force also joined the panel alongside human rights activists and policy advisors Dr. Hiva Feizi, Omid Iravanipour and Jason Brodsky.

Darya Safai said Iran was a “*system based on apartheid, apartheid of gender and religion. More than 3 million women are arrested by the morality police every year for non respect for hijab rules*”. **Bruno Scholl said** that the EU has “*serious disagreements*” with Iran over human rights particularly in regards to the death penalty. He added that “*representatives of the EU had used their direct channels with the Iranian authorities*”. **Bart Groothuis said** “*the importance of today is about imagining the new Iran which wants to take a new path*” and called for President Metsola to “*give voice to the brave men and women in Iran in Strasbourg and Brussels*”. **Fabio Massimo Castaldo said** the EU had a “*moral duty*” to “*lead by the power of our example*” and “*we must ask strong and concrete sanctions against all the representatives of the regime and perpetrators of these state murders.*” **Dr. Hiva Feizi said** “*The Iranian people have spoken and are asking us to amplify their voices, it is time to stop interacting with an unsalvageable regime. EU policymakers must implement actions that match their rhetoric condemning the Iranian regime's abhorrent record.*”

Following the event, PaykanArtCar issued an [open letter](#) to Ursula von der Leyen, urging the President of the European Commission to pause nuclear negotiations with the Islamic Republic and take a suite of concerted measures to hamper the regime's machinery of oppression, including demanding the release of all hostages held in Iran inhumane conditions, sanction the Iranian leadership and list both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah as terrorist organizations.

In its letter to the EC President, **PaykanArtCar urged the European Union to** “*seriously consider these policy recommendations*”, **while further adding that** “*they would go a long way in ensuring that the European Union and its allies and partners have a comprehensive Iran policy, not just a nuclear deal policy, but one that empowers the Iranian people and not the Islamic Republic's brutal regime.*”

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About PaykanArtCar

The PaykanArtCar unites the talents of contemporary Iranian artists with a beloved symbol of Iranian national pride — the Paykan automobile — to advocate for human rights and dignity

in Iran. The non-profit, non-partisan PaykanArtCar is privileged to have acquired a historic Paykan Hillman Hunter limousine. Periodically, the PaykanArtCar will choose and commission an exceptional Iranian artist to use the vehicle as the canvas in support of the ongoing struggle in Iran for human rights. The purpose is simple: to use art and a beloved symbol of national pride to promote the rights of all Iranians no matter their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. For more information, visit paykanartcar.com.

The inaugural PaykanArtCar, designed by Iranian LGBTQ+ artist-activist Alireza Shojaian, will remain on display on the Esplanade Solidarność in front of the European Parliament's building in Brussels from November 7 to 13.

For all interview and press enquiries, please email paykanartcar@redflag.global