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E3 Foreign Ministers Reaffirm Support for Nuclear Watchdog Amid Growing Tensions

June 30, 2025

– Categories: *Politics & Government*



On 30 June 2025, the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement expressing strong support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director general, Rafael Grossi. The statement comes amid growing international concern over reported threats against the agency's leadership and efforts that could undermine its independence and effectiveness.

The E3 ministers made it clear that any attempt to intimidate or pressure the IAEA is unacceptable. They stressed that the agency must be allowed to carry out its critical role of verifying nuclear activity without interference. The statement reaffirmed the collective position that protecting the IAEA's impartiality and operational freedom is essential to upholding the global non-proliferation regime.

The ministers specifically called on Iran to return to full cooperation with the IAEA. They raised concerns over Tehran's recent lack of transparency, including restrictions on inspections and access to sensitive facilities. The E3 urged Iran to fulfil all of its legal obligations under international nuclear agreements and to engage constructively with the agency to restore trust and accountability.

While the ministers acknowledged the complexity of the current diplomatic environment, they reiterated their continued commitment to a negotiated solution. They expressed support for ongoing international efforts, including those led by the United States, aimed at bringing Iran back into full compliance and preventing further escalation. The E3 also reaffirmed their belief that diplomacy remains the most effective path forward.

The joint statement concluded with a commitment to ongoing dialogue and coordination. The ministers indicated that they would continue to monitor the situation closely and consult with international partners to uphold the IAEA's mandate and maintain global nuclear safeguards. In a moment marked by increasing pressure on multilateral institutions, the E3's message reinforced the importance of standing by independent bodies like the IAEA, whose work underpins international security and stability.

