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Dear Colleague,

Today, the ELN publishes a policy brief on the importance of European medical exports during COVID-19. It follows the high-level transatlantic statement, organised by the ELN and The Iran Project, on the impact of US sanctions on the Iranian healthcare system. Here we bring these together with the ELN's other recent work on Iran.

[Policy brief: European supply chains are global lifelines: Why Europe must maintain medical exports during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The EU is the world's largest exporter of medical supplies, and low and middle-income countries are highly dependent on European supply chains. As countries around the world look to Europe to maintain their supplies of lifesaving equipment during the pandemic, **Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj** argues that Europe must preserve and strengthen its role as a healthcare superpower.

[Read the report](#)

[ELN in the media: Group statement in The Guardian and The Washington Post](#)

On Monday, the ELN and our partners The Iran Project issued a joint statement signed by a bipartisan group of 24 American and European national security leaders urging the US government to ease humanitarian trade with Iran in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement received coverage in international media, including [The Guardian](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

[Read the statement](#)

[Global press call: US sanctions and humanitarian trade with Iran](#)

On Monday, the ELN also hosted a global press call with experts to discuss the statement. The call featured US Ambassador **Thomas Pickering** and former Director-General of the World Health Organisation and ELN member **Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland**.

[Read the transcript](#)

[Commentary: Europe still needs INSTEX to help solve the Iran crisis](#)

At the end of last month, the EU-Iran trading mechanism INSTEX successfully concluded its first transaction. At a time when constructive diplomatic relations between Europe and Iran may stave off a regional conflict, the operationalisation of INSTEX remains vital argue ELN Policy Fellow **Sahil Shah** and Founder of Bourse & Bazaar **Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj**.

[Commentary: Iranian public opinion highlights need to redouble efforts to save the JCPOA](#)

Nancy Gallagher, Director of the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, analyses Iranian public opinion data over the course of 2019 and stresses the need for European officials to double down efforts to save the JCPOA.

Best wishes,

Adam

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