

# THEWEEK

## Trump expected to decertify Iran nuclear deal next week

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Donald Trump says he is considering “decertifying” a landmark nuclear deal brokered with Iran during the Obama administration, because Iran is “not living up to the spirit” of the agreement.

Speaking during a White House meeting with military leaders yesterday, the US president insisted that “the Iranian regime supports terrorism and exports violence, bloodshed, and chaos across the Middle East. That is why we must put an end to Iran’s continued aggression and nuclear ambitions.”

According to [The Washington Post](#), “decertification amounts to a middle ground of sorts between Trump, who has long wanted to withdraw from the agreement completely, and many congressional leaders and senior diplomatic, military and national security advisers, who say the deal is worth preserving with changes if possible”.

If the deal is decertified next week, it would trigger a 60-day period for Congress to decide whether to reimpose sanctions on Iran. The move could push Iran to renegotiate the deal but, if Congress imposes sanctions, it could also trigger its collapse.

European signatories to the agreement with Iran – the UK, France and Germany – are “focusing their energies on lobbying Congress not to reimpose sanctions”, [The Guardian](#) says.

An editorial in [The New York Times](#) claims Trump’s decision will “ultimately prove to be a step that antagonises Iran, a major regional power, and leads to the proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world”.

The president’s advisors are “undoubtedly aware the president’s choice will most likely undermine or end US participation in the nuclear deal, split us from our European allies, reduce the constraints on Iran’s nuclear programme, and reduce America’s global credibility and negotiating power”, says Emma Ashford of the [Cato Institute](#), a US libertarian think tank.

Trump is frustrated by rules requiring him to certify an agreement every 90 days, in keeping with a 2015 law giving Congress oversight of the agreement, Western officials told the [Financial Times](#). The president has described it as the “worst deal ever”.

“He is looking for options that minimise the domestic political embarrassment of ultimately maintaining the deal,” the official told the newspaper.