
Aktuelle Hinweise IRAN:**Non-oil exports rose 20% in the second quarter of 2014**

According to newest data from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) the country's non-oil exports have increased by over 20% in the second quarter of 2014. These exports reached USD 11.859bn compared to USD 9.838bn in the same period of last year. Figures from the first quarter of 2014 saw an even bigger year-on-year surge as they accounted for USD 12.386bn compared to USD 9.133bn in 2013. A rise in exports of liquefied propane, methanol and bitumen were crucial for the overall surge. Main export partners in this period of time were China, Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan and Turkey.

Iran to dispatch economic delegations in over 30 countries

The Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) recently announced plans to send a number of economic delegations to 30 countries in order to boost or establish trade ties. The delegations are scheduled to depart overseas by the end of August to hold joint economic meetings and to promote foreign investment. The Islamic Republic of Iran has already held meetings with at least ten countries since the start of the Iranian year in March 2014. According to Mir-Aboutaleb, Deputy Director for Marketing of TPOI stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has plans to triple its number of commercial attachés in its embassies to boost trade ties. Among others Iran will send these attachés to Germany, Italy, Serbia, Spain and Switzerland.

Iranian automobile sector produces 95,000 cars in one month

As reported by Iran's largest car manufacturing company Iran-Khodro (IKCO) the country's automobile industry has manufactured overall 96,765 vehicles in the third month of the current Iranian year (May 21st – June 21st) showing a 103.6% rise in production compared to the same period of last year. More precisely, Iran has raised its output of sedan type cars by 104.1% to 80,144 compared to 39,465 in the same period of last year. Its pickup production surged by 102.6% to 14,847. According to an IKCO statement the company is set to produce up to 600,000 passenger cars and pickups by March 2015.

Qatar and Iran to establish a joint economic free zone

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) recently reported about plans between Qatar and Iran to establish a joint economic free zone. The proposed free zone is to be located at the southern Bushehr province and its surroundings. The project is said to considerably boost the Iranian economy and trade between the two countries. Qatar is an important hub for Iran, especially for the export of Iranian goods like vegetables, fruits and other foodstuff as well as construction materials and ceramics.

Iran and the UAE aim at closer economic cooperation

As nuclear negotiations are continuing, many Iranian entrepreneurs which had moved from the UAE to Kuwait, Oman or Jordan in the past are beginning to reconsider to return to the Emirates. Despite the former sanctions, Iran and the UAE remained important trading partners. Iranian imports from the UAE still accounted for USD 9.2bn in 2013. As Iran wants to attract further foreign direct investment over the next years the country called on UAE businessmen to start joint investments, as soon as the required sanctions would be lifted. As a start, H.E. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Abu Dhabi not long ago to prepare the establishment of a joint commercial council. Also one of the biggest business delegations from the UAE in the recent years visited Iran in June to help revitalising business ties.

TPOI wants to boost ties with Germany

In a recent meeting with German Ambassador to Iran, H.E. Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, Valiollah Afkhamirad, Director of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) urged Germany to grab the current chances to boost trade ties between the two countries. Furthermore, Afkhamirad stated that Tehran and Berlin enjoy great potential to expand mutual diplomatic and especially economic relations.