

Aktuelle Hinweise Iran

Iran's renewable energy output to reach 850MW

As announced by Mohammad Sadeqzadeh, CEO of the Renewable Energy Organization of Iran (SUNA), the country's renewable energy output is expected to reach 850MW during the current fiscal year, started March 21st, by doubling its installed capacity. 90% shall be covered by wind and solar power. Most of these new plants hold a 10 – 30 MW capacity, 5 waste-to-power plants totalling a capacity of 9MW are under construction as well, according to Sadeqzadeh. Iran aims to reach a renewable energy output of 5GW under the 6th five-year development plan and 7.5GW by 2030. To achieve it, the country relies on several foreign companies such as Germany's Athos Solar. This developer has already completed Iran's largest operational photovoltaic plants, two 7MW facilities. In total, foreign firms proposed projects worth USD 3bn.

German exports to Iran increased by 26%

Trade between Iran and Germany reached a total amount of EUR 2.9bn in 2016, with German exports rising by 26% to EUR 2.6bn. In January alone, the increase was 30% compared to the previous year. According to Volker Treier, foreign trade economist of Germany's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it is aimed to double trades in goods by the end of 2018 to EUR 5bn. Nevertheless, there are several obstacles, as few German banks are eager to engage with Iran while Iranian banks often do not meet international standards. A major reason for the improving trade relations are the 2015 lifted sanctions.

President H.E. Hassan Rouhani visits Moscow

Accompanied by a high ranked delegation including various ministers, President H.E. Hassan Rouhani met his Russian counterpart President H.E. Vladimir Putin on March 28th, followed by a joint statement. The two Presidents praised the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), emphasized cooperative efforts in economy and politics and expressed each other's trust. Several deals were signed, including Russia financing the building of 4 900 railway cars in Iran, cooperation in producing air ambulances and firefighting equipment and allowing visa-free group tours. The reduction of the nations' oil output to stabilize the global energy market was agreed upon as well. H.E. Putin announced investments in Iran's energy market as well as his support for Iran's plans to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Privatization of companies to be completed

By the end of the current fiscal year, which started on March 21st, all Iranian transferable state-owned companies shall be privatized. The country's Economy Minister H.E. Ali Tayebnia stated, that the last 323 of 1713 companies, featured on a privatization list will be handed over to the private sector, despite several obstacles. These are put by some managers and directors of public companies opposing the ministry's measure. Privatization bears major cuts of jobs and large scale layoffs, but also the hope of forcing companies to become more productive.

Iran imposes sanctions on 15 U.S.-companies

Two days after Washington banned 11 foreign companies and individuals for violating export controls with Iran, such as transferring sensitive technology that could improve the nation's ballistic missile programme, Iran set up sanctions against 15 American companies and individuals. The nation's Foreign Minister, H.E. Mohammad Jawad Zarif, explained, these were directly and/or indirectly collaborating with Israel, thus violating international law and the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Furthermore H.E. Zarif defended the mentioned transfers as measures to develop a peaceful missile power. According to him, the list of banned companies could be expanded if necessary.

EUR 257m petrochemical plant launched

Monday, March 27th, President H.E. Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the EUR 257m petrochemical plant in the western province Kurdistan. With its construction beginning in 2005 already, the biggest industrial project in the province's history was expected to be finalized by 2016, becoming operational with a year delay. 300 000 tons of light-density polyethylene are to be produced each year, while 700 new job opportunities were created. The country plans to double its petrochemical output capacity by 2020 and to rise its share in the global petrochemical production to almost 5%.