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## **Aktuelle Hinweise Iran**

### **China-Iran 25-Year Cooperation Agreement**

On March 27<sup>th</sup> 2021, China and Iran signed a 25-year Cooperation Agreement, addressing economic issues. The agreement was established on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Iran and seen as a major step forward that will see China invest USD 400-600bn into the Iranian economy. The details of the deal remained unclear, though it involved the exchange of Iranian oil in return for Chinese help in building telecommunications networks, hospitals and underground railways. According to the recently leaked 18-page draft containing provisions of the Agreement and media reports, there will be around 100 projects. Moreover, the agreement is just a framework and has no binding authority. The China-Iran Agreement marks the first time Iran has reached such a deal with a major world power in a long time.

### **USD 3bn of bank loans paid to knowledge-based firms in 3 month**

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) data, the Iranian banking system has paid over USD 3bn to knowledge-based companies during the first three month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21<sup>st</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>). This amount, paid to 558 companies, has increased by 247 percent compared to the previous year's same period. The government has developed certain plans to support knowledge-based companies as a step forward to the country's goal "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles" as the Iranian economy is fighting the U.S. sanctions. The deputy vice president for science and technology, Mehdy Elyasi, announced that the number of knowledge-based companies has increased from around 50 in 2013 to more than 5,700 in the previous Iranian calendar year.

### **Five countries account for 74% of Iran's export**

The director-general of the Coordinating Office of the Export Promotion Center of Iran announced that 74% of the country's exports went to five countries. The most important export markets in the first three months of this year are China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Afghanistan. China with USD 3.1bn (29%), Iraq with USD 2.3bn (22%), UAE with USD 1.3bn (12%), Turkey with USD 594m (6%) and Afghanistan with USD 569m (5%) are main destinations of Iranian exports. According to the director-general of the Coordinating Office of the Export Promotion Center of Iran, petrochemicals and natural gas condensate with 51%, mining and mineral industries with 28%, agriculture and food industry with 12%, carpets, handicrafts with 3%, and industry with 9%, are the items which have been exported during the period.

### **Iran and Azerbaijan to cooperate on production of buses and tractors**

The Ambassador of Iran to Azerbaijan, H.E. Seyed Abbas Mousavi, announced that Iran and Azerbaijan are to cooperate on automobile manufacturing, in particular on the production of buses and tractors. H.E. Mousavi published a picture of Azerbaijan's president H.E. Elham Aliyev driving and Iranian car saying "the production of buses and tractors will soon be on the agenda of two neighbouring Muslim countries, Iran and Azerbaijan".

### **Deepening of cooperation between Iran and Armenia**

The Armenian embassy informed that the newly elected President of Iran, H.E. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, sent a message to the acting Prime Minister of Armenia, H.E. Nikol Pashinyan to deepen the cooperation between the countries. According to him, the ties between the two countries are based on a long standing relation that has always been friendly. H.E. Raisi emphasised the similar and close position of the countries on international and regional issues as well as shared challenges and thus an indicator of the importance of their relation. Furthermore, he expressed hope that in the near future they will be able to take further steps to strengthen the foundations of their cooperation in various fields.

### **Iran and Iraq confer on regional developments**

The Intelligence Minister of Iran, H.E. Seyed Mahmoud Alavi, and Iraq's National Security Adviser, H.E. Qasim al-Araji met in Baghdad on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. Both sides stressed the importance of strengthening their bilateral cooperation in line with the interests of both nations. Moreover, they discussed the political and security situation at a regional and international level as well as possibilities to strengthen the relation.