

Aktuelle Hinweise IRAN:

German-Iranian trade slowly recovers

In March 2014 Germany exported goods with a value of EUR 193m, about 4% less compared to the March 2013 figures, but 31% more than in January 2014. Iranian exports to Germany reached EUR 26m in March 2014, about 3% less compared to the previous year's result. In the first quarter of 2014 exports from Germany to the Islamic Republic reached EUR 529m, Iranian exports to Germany climbed to EUR 90m, about EUR 10m more compared to the first quarter of 2013. The overall trade volume of between the two countries thereby amounts to approximately EUR 619m, only 1% less compared to the same period in 2013. The most important German goods exported to Iran in the first quarter of 2014 were crop with a value of EUR 149m, followed by machinery, appliances and mechanical devices with a value of EUR 119m as well as pharmaceuticals valuing EUR 43m. Iranian exports to Germany from January to April 2014 consisted primarily of fruits and nuts worth EUR 43m, sheep intestines worth EUR 12m and carpets worth EUR 9m.

Iranian crude oil exports to China hit record high

Iranian exports of crude oil to China hit a new all time high in April 2014. Accordingly, China imported approximately 800,000 bbl/d, nearly doubling the volume compared to the previous year. Adding Iran's export of crude oil to India with 225,000 bbl/d and to South Korea with 135,000 bbl/d, the country exported over 1m bbl/d solely to Asian countries. China's crude imports from Iran rose by 115.3% after the easement of sanctions back in November 2013. Imports from March to April alone rose 44% from 555,182 bbl/d. On average China imported a monthly 618,170 bbl/d in the first 4 months of 2014. Iran's overall crude oil exports reached a long-time high of 1.5m bbl/d.

Iran starts selling oil to South Africa and Sri Lanka

According to an Iranian official the Islamic Republic of Iran started exporting crude oil to South Africa and Sri Lanka, as a result of the lifting of sanctions as stated in the Joint Plan of Action. These exports are currently still carried out under short-term single-shipment contracts. However, according to official statements there is a high possibility for long-term contracts with said countries in the future.

Iran evaluates plans to export LNG through Oman

The Islamic Republic of Iran is considering exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) via a facility in Oman. The proposed plan would allow the country a better access to Far-Eastern markets, where there is a high demand for LNG. At the beginning of May Iran and Oman signed an agreement to build a pipeline transporting Iranian gas to the Sultanate. The pipeline will be constructed within about two and a half years and will transport almost one billion cubic feet of LNG per day.

Russia to construct Iranian railway line

As Iranian daily newspapers report, Russia has reached an agreement with Iran to construct the proposed 167km Rasht-Astara railway in the northwestern part of the Islamic Republic. The agreement was signed between the presidents of Iranian Railways on the one hand and Russian Railways on the other hand during the 60th meeting of the Council for Rail Transport of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Kazakhstan's capital Astana on 10th May 2014. The planned railway line is part of the Qazvin-Rasht-Astara railway which is supposed to connect North Europe to South East Asia and will be linked with Azerbaijan's railway network in the future. The railway will be able to carry about 1.4m passengers and 5 to 7m tons of cargo per year.

Iran welcomes and supports Chinese investment

In a meeting with Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping in Shanghai at the sidelines of the 4th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Iranian President H.E. Hassan Rouhani expressed his country's openness for Chinese investment in Iran. The Chinese President stressed the need, especially for scientific and petrochemical cooperation between the two countries, calling for an activation of the Iran-China Business Council. An example for Chinese involvement in Iranian projects is the financing of Iran's Railways Electrification Projects. They took another step, as China seems to be interested in financing the electrification of the Tehran-Mashhad Railway. The overall project is now in a state of obtaining all necessary licenses for implementation through 85% of foreign financing and 15% governmental licensing. The project will be finalised through engineering, procurement, construction and finance (EPCF) contracts within the period of 42 months.