

### **Aktuelle Hinweise IRAN:**

#### **German, Qatari, and Turkish investors pay visit to Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ)**

The Managing Director of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) Mehdi Yousefi has reported that several foreign investor groups from Germany, Qatar, and Turkey had visited the Zone and declared their willingness to invest after being briefed on incentives and opportunities. The PSEEZ is located 300 km southeast of the city of Bushehr and the Persian Gulf coast. The South Pars Gas fields are a 105km drive away. Special incentives for potential investors in the PSEEZ include visa and work permit issuance facilitation for foreign nationals. Additional investment packages in tourism and hospitality, hotel construction, agriculture, greenhouse construction, new energies, fuel consumption optimization, and the industry sector have been devised to attract investors. Currently, 65,000 people are working in the pending phases of the South Pars and other industrial projects of PSEEZ. According to Yousefi, the creation of the needed infrastructure for the development of downstream, mid-stream, and upstream industries of South Pars is the main objective of PSEEZ. The South Pars gas field is estimated to contain about eight percent of the world's natural gas reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of gas condensate.

#### **More transparency and efficiency at IKIA customs**

The Director General of the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) customs has reported the implementation of the first electronic endorsement system at IKIA. According to Gholam Reza Fatehi, all customs warehouses have been provided with new equipment so that when goods arrive at the red customs channel, the assessors are spared the task of categorizing the items. Instead, the data is fed directly to the system which processes them in online data bases. These efforts have been made in line with the general electronic reform plans for all Iranian customs. The goal of these efforts is to achieve more transparency and efficiency at IKIA and beyond.

#### **Chinese oil company faces criticism over continuous delays and weak performance**

Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Ali Majedi has criticized Chinese companies for continued delays and weak performance compared to European companies active in Iran. He advised Chinese firms to comply with contract schedules, conditions, and Iranian standards. Recently, Iranian media outlets had claimed that the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) had handed over secret data about Iran's Azadegan oil field to Iraq. The claims have not been officially confirmed as yet. The CNPC had been developing the South Azadegan oilfield for seven years. After a February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 ultimatum over continuous delays, the CNPC abandoned Iranian oil projects.

#### **Inflation rates decline in fourth consecutive month**

Official data of the Statistics Centre of Iran show that the country's month-on-month inflation rate has dropped by two percent in the last Persian calendar month of *Tir* (ended July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014) compared to the month before (26,2% down to 24,2%). The Iranian Central Bank reported that inflation rates have been decreasing for the fourth consecutive month during this Iranian calendar year (starting March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014). The Iranian government is officially committed to achieving single digit inflation rates. The state subsidy phase-out on basic goods and energy as well as rising prices for foreign currency due to international sanctions against Iran are among the reasons for high inflations rates.

#### **USD 2,8 billion Iranian assets to be unfrozen**

Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs and senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi has confirmed that a first instalment of USD 400 million of Iran's frozen assets is scheduled to be deposited at the Iranian Central Bank following the extension of the interim Geneva agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China – plus Germany (P5+1). According to Araqchi, the remaining USD 2,4 billion will be unfrozen and paid to Iran in three week intervals.

#### **Shahid Rajaie Port: Staggering rise in non-oil transit**

At a press conference on recent developments in Iran's largest trade port, the Shahid Rajaie Special Economic Zone, the Director of Hormozgan province Port and Maritime Authority has reported a rise of non-oil goods transit at a staggering rate of 688% in this Persian calendar year compared to the previous year. Ebrahim Idani confirmed the vast trade boom and added that during this period "a total of 25 million tons of goods, either oil or otherwise, have been loaded and unloaded in the port; of this amount of goods, over 15 million tons are non-oil goods and over 8 million are oil products". The boom in trans-shipping is said to have occurred after the first liner entered Shahid Rajaie recently after sanctions were eased by provisions made in Geneva joint Plan of Actions. Shahid Rajaie port boasts of 40 harbours and the country's most modern terminals for ocean navigators.

#### **Iran's car production up 75% in four months**

Car manufacturing in Iran rose 75% in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, compared to the same period in the previous year. Iranian carmakers produced 279,739 vehicles during this period. Car manufacturing is Iran's second-biggest industry after oil, accounting for 10 percent of its GDP. Among international automobile manufacturers, PSA Peugeot Citroen was the most successful company in Iran before the sanctions, selling 458,000 vehicles in 2011. For PSA Peugeot Citroen, Iran used to represent the second-biggest market worldwide after France. Its cars, most of them assembled by an Iranian partner firm are to be seen everywhere on Iranian streets. Currently, the French car producer is re-entering the Iranian market after sanctions were eased according to the interim Geneva agreement between Iran and the P5+1 in early 2014.