

this problem; for example, Russia can access the open waters through Bandar Abbas and other Iranian ports. Iran can also access the northern world and the Arctic through this corridor. Therefore, it can create great opportunities for both countries. I think that we can readjust the geo-economic balance in Eurasia, and by doing so, the interests of Iran and Russia will be fulfilled and then some. We

in Russia have made a lot of efforts to reach an agreement with Iran on the INSTC, which, of course, I cannot explain in detail, but there was a lot of tension inside Russia about this corridor, but we finally got our wish.

**In recent months, some media outlets have addressed issues that highlight the different views between the two**

**countries. Are there serious disagreements between the two countries? What is the solution to resolve these disagreements?**

If we can imagine what great power will be realized by the two countries after the joint strategic partnership agreement, then we can easily understand that there are people in the world who do not like this development at all and will even

try to destroy it in the future. For example, sometimes very strange statements are made by our Foreign Ministry regarding the islands belonging to Iran, and on the other hand, anti-Russian statements are sometimes made in Iran. Not to mention actions taken outside the two countries that try to prevent the unity of the two. First and foremost, there are Western countries that hate this

project. We must understand that the enemy has already built networks within and without our society and is trying to destroy this agreement. We in Russia still have a strong liberal lobby, and I am quite sure that something similar exists in Iran. They use various arguments, sometimes religious and sometimes nationalist, to weaken the relations between the two countries.

But the fact that this agreement is signed is evidence that we have been able to overcome the obstacles. There are no problems between Russia and Iran, but if our enemies hope that they can create discord between us and put Iran and Russia against each other, it will be a great detriment to both countries. The presidents of the two countries understand this very well.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) gestures toward Iran's top-ranking delegation before engaging in bilateral negotiations in the Kremlin on January 17, 2025.  
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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) smiles before leading his top-ranking delegations in bilateral negotiations with the Russian side in the Kremlin on January 17, 2025.  
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## Iran-Europe ties independent of Iran-Russia ties



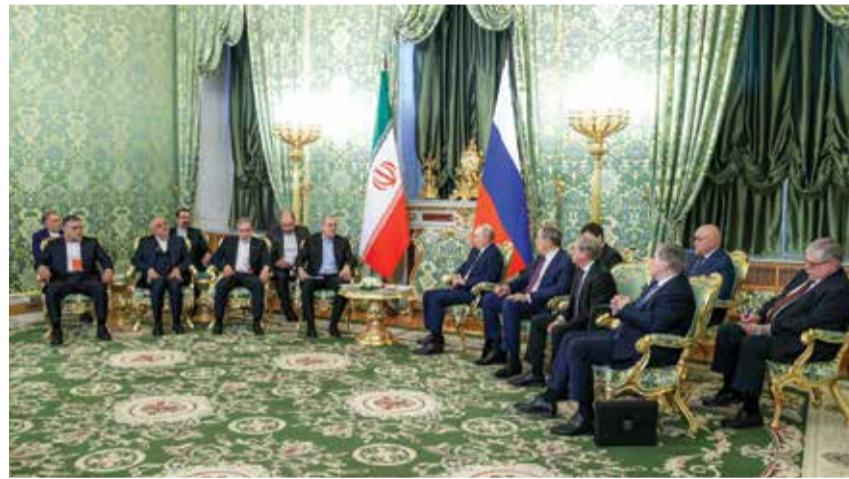
By Mohsen Pakaein  
Iran's ex-ambassador to Azerbaijan

OPINION

*The bilateral agreement between Iran and Russia indicates a strategic and long-term approach, pointing out that relations between the two countries are on a strategic path. This also shows a high level of trust between the two countries, as a strategic agreement typically covers various fields, including security, defense, and intelligence, and is long-term.*

The comprehensive strategic agreement between Iran and Russia is a 20-year cooperation plan consisting of 47 articles and outlines various projects in fields such as trade, transit, energy, agriculture, tourism, as well as security, defense, and cultural issues. After the agreement is signed, it will be sent to the parliaments of both countries for approval, and once approved, it will be turned into a bill and sent to the Iranian Parliament by the Pezeshkian government. The Parliament will then discuss and provide feedback on the articles, and after the Guardian Council's approval, the implementation process will begin. Each Iranian ministry responsible for a particular task under the agreement will work with its counterpart in Russia to carry out the agreement. This agreement is highly important for several reasons, one of which is its strategic outlook on relations. Some-

times Iran's relations with other countries are short-term, and agreements need to be renewed after a while. However, this agreement is different. It is also worth noting that the nature of this agreement is mostly economic. This shows that the two countries, which are currently facing unfair sanctions, are determined to make their economies resilient and are seeking strategic cooperation to achieve this goal, which is a positive point for the economies of both countries. Regarding the impact of developments in West Asia, particularly in Syria, on the signing of this agreement and the continuation of defense and security cooperation between Iran and Russia, it should be stated that the defense and security fields are very broad and not limited to one country or region. The developments in Syria were rapid and unpredictable, even for countries like Turkey, which were involved in



Iranian and Russian top-ranking delegations, led by their respective presidents, meet in Moscow, Russia, on January 17, 2025.  
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designing the situation. However, Iran and Russia have been acting in harmony in West Asia, making decisions based on their interests, and there have been no particular issues between them in this regard. Therefore, the recent developments in Syria will not hinder the formation of military, defense, and security cooperation between Iran and Russia. Iran's relations with Europe are independent of its relations with Russia, and there is no obstacle to holding negotiations with Europe to secure Iran's interests. Iran will continue

its relations with Russia and China while also negotiating with Europe, and these two issues are separate. Just as Iran has established close, friendly, and strategic relations with Russia and China, if Europe sets aside its negative approaches towards Iran, Iran can also have close relations and constructive dialogue with Europe. Therefore, Iran's relations with Russia should be defined independently of its relations with Europe.

*The article first appeared in Farsi on ILNA.*

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### Commitment to building ...

The Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership Agreement is more than a diplomatic document; it is a testament to the will of the Russian and Iranian peoples to work together in pursuit of common goals. By formalizing cooperation in key areas such as trade, energy, security, and infrastructure, the agreement reflects a shared commitment to building a more interconnected and prosperous future. For the peoples of Russia and Iran,

this partnership is a source of pride and optimism. It demonstrates their nations' ability to overcome historical challenges and forge a path of mutual benefit. The agreement also sends a powerful message to the international community: that nations with shared values and interests can come together to address global challenges and promote a fairer and more balanced world order. By working together, the two nations are setting an example of how shared

history, values, and aspirations can serve as a foundation for meaningful and enduring partnerships. It is worth noting that editorial work on the document began two and a half years ago, in January 2022, during the presidency of Ebrahim Raisi, who passed away in May. Initially, the agreement was developed with the goal of elevating the status of Russian-Iranian relations. Both sides repeatedly announced that the final version of the agreement

was "ready for signing in the near future," but the signing was consistently postponed. This indicates that the level of detail and the scope of the agreements are unique within the framework of bilateral relations. Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized the importance of this partnership during a recent address, stating, "This agreement is a reflection of the trust and mutual understanding that has developed between our nations. It opens new opportuni-

ties for cooperation that will benefit not only our countries but also the broader region." The Kremlin also highlighted the economic benefits of the agreement, particularly in light of ongoing Western sanctions against both nations. By expanding trade and developing joint infrastructure projects, such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Russia and Iran aim to create a more self-reliant and interconnected economic network.