

Iran wins seat on UN trucking treaty board despite intrigues

The Islamic Republic of Iran won one out of nine seats in the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB), an international body supervising the transport of goods and shipping of cargos across the world.

Iran's delegation won the seat during the TIRExB election in the Swiss city of Geneva, Press TV wrote.

Mostafa Ayati, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), attended the election session in the Swiss city and managed to secure Iran's seat for the years 2025 and 2026 with the support of the member states.

The achievement was made as a result of intensive diplomatic consultations and despite the negative atmosphere created by certain countries against Iran.

The TIR Convention, which was ratified in 1959 and has been in force since 1978, is one of the most significant international customs treaties and has so far been approved by 74 countries, including Iran.

The treaty, which is administered under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), aims to facilitate the international transit of goods and plays a key role in reducing freight costs, accelerating international shipping, and increasing supply chain security.

The TIRExB, which consists of nine seats and holds elections every two years, is responsible for overseeing the adequate implementation of the convention among the member states. The board is also responsible for making technical proposals, administering TIR Carnets and handling cases of abuse of the TIR system.

TIRExB elections are important for member countries as they protect national interests in international transport, increase bargaining power, improve transit infrastructure, strengthen international standing, and allow for better management and control of customs and security risks.

TIR carnet, as a valid cus-



tom document, provides the possibility of international transit of goods within the framework of the Convention. The document allows goods to

pass through countries on the way in a sealed manner, without having to go through repetitive customs formalities at the entry and exit bor-

ders. Iran's success in the TIRExB elections, while strengthening the country's diplomatic standing, will provide more

possibilities for the Islamic Republic's active participation in international decision-making procedures related to the transit of goods.

Minister says agricultural exports up by 35%



Economy Desk

Iran's agricultural exports have increased by more than 35% over the first nine months of the Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 19, 2024) compared to the same period last year, according to the minister of agriculture.

Speaking at a meeting of the Supreme Council of Provinces on Thursday, Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh said various agricultural projects worth over 25 trillion tomans, which created 114,000 jobs, will be inaugurated during Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies marking the anniversary of 1979 Islamic Revolution from February 1 to 11.

Nouri-Qezeljeh acknowledged the significant progress in rural services since the Revolution but stressed that the dignity of the people demands even greater efforts to provide the best possible services.

The minister noted that previously, agricultural products often went unsold and spoiled, but now, through strategic planning, these products are being exported and converted into revenue as efforts have been focused on reducing waste and facilitating exports.

He emphasized that each product is subject to specific policies, backed by thorough planning. For instance, despite claims of pistachio sanctions, exports have more than doubled, reflecting deliberate efforts rather than chance.

Nouri-Qezeljeh also addressed the reduction in imports of tea and rice, attributing it to policies that prioritize domestic production.

Importers are now required to purchase from local producers before receiving export quotas, he said while defending these policies and noted that they have benefited farmers, including saffron producers, who have been able to sell their products at fair prices.

The minister highlighted the settlement of farmers' debts over the past three years, including payments to wheat, canola, and soybean farmers. For the first time, the government's share of tea farmers' claims was settled on time. Nouri-Qezeljeh stressed the importance of supporting producers while ensuring market stability and protecting consumers' interests.

Iran-Oman nine-month trade tops \$1.1b: TPO



Economy Desk

The director-general of the West Asia Department at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) announced that approximately \$1.146 billion worth of goods were exported to Oman in the first nine months of this year (March 20-December 19, 2024), marking a 15% increase compared to the same period last year.

Abdolamir Rabihavi, told IRNA that the joint economic cooperation commission between Iran and Oman was held in re-

cent weeks.

He added that during the same nine-month period, imports from Oman to Iran amounted to about \$631 million, reflecting a 9% decline compared to the previous year.

Rabihavi highlighted recent negotiations between Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade and Omani officials in Muscat, stating that agreements and the development of bilateral relations aim to break trade volume records with Oman by the end of this year and achieve a 15% growth rate.

The official emphasized that Tehran and Muscat are committed to strengthening trade ties, mentioning that Mohammad Atabak, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, led a delegation of government officials and private sector representatives to Oman on January 22 to attend the 21st session of the Iran-Oman Joint Cooperation Commission. Rabihavi added that numerous trade and logistics issues were discussed during the commission, resulting in several agreements, many of which stemmed from a year of follow-ups.

A key achievement was the participation of the private sector, coordinated by the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce.

He noted that bilateral meetings with Omani counterparts were held on the sidelines of the commission, along with visits to production and investment units, providing Iranian traders with a clear picture of Oman's production and investment landscape and market potential.

Rabihavi stated that discussions covered various topics, including trade volume, customs and visa facilitation for traders, maritime transit, the use of Iran as a hub for Eurasian Econom-

ic Union products destined for Omani markets, and the promotion of both countries' capabilities to boost trade. He also mentioned the signing of a cooperation agreement between Iran and Oman, with Atabak holding separate meetings with Oman's Minister of Transport Saeed bin Hamoud bin Saeed al Maawali, Minister of Energy and Minerals Salim bin Nasser bin Said al Afi, and Head of Oman's Investment Authority Abdulsalam al Murshidi. Following the meetings, the ministers of both countries signed the commission's agreement.

Rabihavi expressed optimism about ongoing negotiations for a preferential trade agreement, which is expected to address customs tariff adjustments and trade facilitation.

He added that a subsequent visit in the next two weeks will finalize the agreement.

Rabihavi also said the joint commission yielded significant achievements for Iran, with the potential to boost trade. He highlighted Oman's free trade agreements with many countries, including those in the Persian Gulf region, and suggested that Iran could leverage Oman's capacity for re-exporting Iranian goods.

Tehran, Doha ink MoU to enhance aviation ties

Economy Desk

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop aviation relations and cooperation between Iran and Qatar was signed Thursday, with the agreement aiming to increase air transportation between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Hossein

Pourfarzaneh, head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, and Mohammed Faleh al-Hajri, head of Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority, IRNA wrote. The signing ceremony, organized with the efforts of Ali Salehabadi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Qatar, aligns with Iran's Civil Aviation Organization's plans to expand aviation relations, enhance

cooperation, and boost the country's international flight network.

Following the signing, the two sides discussed mechanisms to address operational challenges faced by airlines in both countries and explored ways to strengthen cooperation in air transportation. They also shared perspectives on several issues related to civil aviation.

