

Directive for facilitating Iran’s digital economy businesses approved

President calls for new solutions to digital economy problems

Economy Desk

The directive by the Committee for Facilitating the Activities of Digital Economy Businesses was approved during a meeting of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace chaired by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. The president emphasized the preparation of new and serious solutions to address problems in the digital economy sector, stating, "It is necessary to assess the extent to which the objectives outlined for the cyberspace domain have been achieved." At the meeting, Pezeshkian highlighted the council's crucial responsibilities and duties in enhancing service quality within this domain and addressing security concerns, particularly under current sensitive conditions. He called for a precise evaluation of the achievement level of set objectives in this domain and for identifying existing obstacles and challenges to resolve them. Pezeshkian and members of the Su-

preme Council of Cyberspace also emphasized the vigorous pursuit of realizing the National Information Network. Pezeshkian highlighted the importance of strengthening the country's infrastructure and enhancing its resilience. He stressed the necessity of formulating operational solutions aligned with available resources and capacities in the cyberspace domain. "Unfortunately, a significant portion of so-called strategic documents and plans today have effectively become unusable and relegated to archives due to the neglect of these considerations," he stated. The president, in another part of his remarks, also stressed the need for a fundamental revision of the physical and multi-layered protection of the country's data, describing this as an essential priority in cyberspace governance.

Need for new solutions

Following the presentation of a report

by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on the status and problems of digital economy businesses, Pezeshkian stated, "It is necessary to determine serious and new solutions to solve the problems of the digital economy sector so that these businesses face fewer difficulties." During the meeting, the security deputy of the National Center of Cyberspace presented a comprehensive report on the country's cybersecurity status and the success of experts in countering recent attacks. Emphasized by the council members and upon the president's directive, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace was mandated to update cybersecurity guidelines and re-engineer related processes.



Meanwhile, Mohammad Amin Aqamiri, secretary of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, also addressed the meeting, commending the efforts of digital economy businesses during the 12-day Israeli war, saying, "The digital economy sector, through its round-the-clock activities during the war, prevented the disruption of peo-

ple's lives in various areas including buying and selling, transportation, insurance, banking, etc., which is commendable." Council members also emphasized the necessity of serious pursuit in realizing the National Information Network, strengthening cybersecurity, and supporting the digital economy.

VP stresses foreign investment security as ‘overarching, unalterable policy



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First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref emphasized that "security for investments by Iranians abroad must be established as an overarching and unalterable policy." Speaking at Wednesday's meeting of the task force for realizing this year's slogan of "Investment for Production," Aref stressed the necessity of activating provinces — particularly border provinces — along with the private sector and overseas Iranians to attract investment and secure resources for the Seventh Development Plan, IRNA reported. Addressing the meeting, attended by the economy minister, the Central Bank governor, and relevant officials, the vice president noted that governments are the primary audience for annual slogans,

adding that economic issues, production, and investment have consistently been emphasized by the Leader in recent years. He underscored, "Investment for production is the most critical challenge in the Seventh Development Plan, and the means of securing required resources must be prioritized." Citing the government's neighborhood diplomacy policy, he stated that the administration and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have effectively expanded and deepened cooperation with neighboring states and regional unions like the Eurasian Economic Union. He added that the positive measures by the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department in Iran's embassies abroad must be vigorously continued. The first vice president asserted that Iran's foreign policy conditions under the current government are exceptional, noting that regional unions and bilateral relations with neighboring countries have created accessible pathways to overcome sanctions and attract investment. Aref emphasized the need to "more seriously utilize the private sector for investment and resource mobilization for the Seventh Development Plan." "Substantial capital exists domestically and abroad. Mechanisms must be established to leverage investments by overseas Iranians — including securing their investment safety — as current volatility has eroded trust in investment laws." This security, he concluded, must be embedded in an unalterable policy framework to assure Iranians abroad and alleviate past concerns.

Moscow urges enhanced Iran-Russia ties to offset sanctions

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Russia's deputy finance minister, during a meeting with Iran's ambassador, emphasized Moscow's support for Iran's membership in the BRICS New Development Bank while urging greater bilateral cooperation to counter unjust Western sanctions. During a Wednesday meeting in Moscow, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali and Russian Deputy Finance Minister Ivan Chebskov discussed expanding cooperation in financial services, insurance, and taxation, ISNA reported. Jalali characterized bilateral relations as "progressively developing across all dimensions," noting that banking and financial collaboration between the two nations had "significantly expanded over the past two years." He added that cooperation in insurance and taxation was "advancing at an appreciable pace."



Highlighting both countries' BRICS membership, Jalali stated that Iranian-Russian financial and banking cooperation "could serve as a successful model for the BRICS alliance." The ambassador also endorsed Russian initiatives within BRICS and requested Moscow's backing for Iran's membership in the BRICS New Development Bank. Chebskov expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral ties, particularly in banking and finance, affirming Russia's readiness to "continue and deepen this cooperation." He called for enhanced joint efforts to "counter unjust Western sanctions against Iran and Russia."

Iran attaché in Serbia sees \$400m trade jump in two years

Economy Desk

The commercial attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Serbia, while enumerating the trade advantages of Iran and Serbia, predicted that trade between the two countries will increase to \$300-400 million by the end of the Persian year 1405 (March 2027). Faraz Chamani noted that while Serbia, with a population under 7 million, might not constitute a large market by itself, Iran attaches importance to the market due to its geopolitical position in Europe. The commercial attaché added that Serbia's trade infrastructure could serve as a commercial hub for Iran, IRNA reported. Emphasizing that Serbia has 15 free trade zones, he clarified, "Companies established in the free zones can export their manufactured goods to the entire European Union with zero tariffs; moreover, Serbia is connected

through free trade agreements with significant areas such as the European Union, the Eurasian Union, China, Turkey, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Balkan region countries. This is while this country has not yet joined the European Union." Mentioning that the dispatch of the Commercial Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Serbia in the year 1402 (beginning March 20, 2023) represented an effort by the Iranian side to develop trade with Serbia, Chamani stressed the establishment of Iranian production and export infrastructure in the European country. According to the official, prior to the dispatch of the commercial attaché, the official trade volume of the two countries was around \$29 million. He added, "However, we endeavored to develop trade grounds in this country by encouraging Iranian companies to establish and set up production lines

or packaging workshops and export centers in Serbia. We also pursued conditions for company registration, introduction of attorneys, legal advisors, real estate advisors, and expert market consultants."

55.4% increase in trade volume

"By the end of the year 1403 (March 20, 2025), the trade volume of the two countries approached approximately \$65 million, which appears to represent a 55.4% increase; it should be noted that the trade balance still remains positive for Iran. The commercial attaché predicted, "By the end of the year 1405 (March 2027), we will be able to increase the trade volume between Iran and Serbia to \$300-400 million." Chamani, listing the most important export items from Iran to Serbia over the past year, stated, "Polystyrene, polyethylene, dates, pistachios, dried

figs, fresh mangoes and pineapples, tobacco, bitumen, and petroleum products were the most important export goods, while phosphate fertilizers, industrial machinery, reactor equipment, grains, animal feed, seeds and saplings, non-organic chemical materials, wood, and some electrical and electronic equipment were the most important imports from Serbia." "Concluding a free trade agreement between Iran and Serbia; establishing a center for the distribution and re-export of Iranian dates in Serbia; establishing a center for the distribution and re-export of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products in Serbia; participation of merchants from both countries in exhibition events and exchange of trade delegations; activating private Serbian customs to facilitate and expedite the entry of Iranian goods into the market; creating grounds for cooperation between



Iranian and Serbian contracting companies in joint projects; activating bus and air routes aimed at tourist exchange; establishing the first Iranian chain stores and restaurants in Serbia," are considered among the most important measures for developing trade between the two countries, he said.