

Iran-Netherlands Chamber Amsterdam 4th largest EU exporter to Tehran, 8th destination for Iranian goods

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INTERVIEW

The Netherlands ranks as the fourth-largest exporter of goods to Iran among European countries and the eighth-largest destination for Iranian exports to Europe, according to a senior official of the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce. Majid Haji Ahmadi, vice chairman of the board of directors of the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the significant potential for expanding trade cooperation between Iran and the Netherlands, emphasizing that the country holds the position of the fourth-largest exporter to Iran among European nations. Speaking to Iran Daily, Haji Ahmadi further noted that the Netherlands also ranks eighth in receiving the highest volume of Iranian exports to European countries. Referring to the position of the Netherlands in the European economy, he explained, the Netherlands is one of the important

countries in the European Union, from which one can benefit from the country's industrial technologies in various fields and export Iranian goods to other European countries through the country. Haji Ahmadi recalled that in previous years, before sanctions impeded economic exchanges between Iran and European countries, the volume of bilateral trade was substantial. Iran and the Netherlands, he noted, maintained strong cooperation and exchanges in mineral production, oil, and gas industries. He added that should relations between Iran and European countries become facilitated and positive steps be taken toward lifting sanctions, Iran-Netherlands trade volume would grow rapidly due to the two sides' extensive history of cooperation in oil, gas, and energy. Historically, most members of the Joint Chamber focused on oil and gas, but sanctions have obstructed commercial and economic activities in these fields for several years. The sanctions and resultant monetary and banking complications have disrupted payment processes and

currency transfers between the two countries, negatively impacting bilateral trade. The vice chairman said that both countries possess significant attractions and capacities in the tourism industry, which could enhance cooperation and increase revenue generation for both nations. Haji Ahmadi stated that like tourism, the agricultural sector is not directly affected by Western sanctions against Iran. Consequently, trade cooperation between the two countries is currently concentrated in agriculture. Items such as seeds, flower bulbs, botanical pesticides, and food ingredients/additives are exported from the Netherlands to Iran. In return, Iran exports agricultural products to the Netherlands, including fruits and vegetables such as dates, pistachios, saffron, apples, and citrus fruits, as well as animal products like meat and dairy derivatives, plus dried fruits. He noted, however, that the volume of these exports has decreased significantly compared to the



Majid Haji Ahmadi

past due to sanctions-related issues. Haji Ahmadi elaborated on the Netherlands' economic capacities for cooperation, explaining that the country holds strong positions in European agriculture and livestock/poultry farming, enabling it to meet part of Iran's demand for such products. Conversely, Iran can export large quantities of

food products to the Netherlands. Referring to the history of the Iran-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, he underscored that the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce was launched in 2003 to enhance trade and facilitate cooperation between the two nations' merchants. Since then, it has undertaken numerous actions, including gath-

ering Dutch trade information and disseminating it to members; inviting Dutch economic delegations; dispatching Iranian trade groups to the Netherlands; organizing and participating in specialized joint exhibitions and seminars; assisting member merchants with visa procurement; and resolving potential disputes between traders from both countries.

Iran secured highest oil revenue growth among OPEC members in 2024

Economy Desk

Iran attained the highest increase in oil revenue among OPEC members in 2024, earning over \$46.7 billion and registering a growth of nearly 14% compared to the previous year. This is while OPEC's total oil revenue decreased by 4%, reaching \$652 billion, Mehr reported. According to statistics published in the 60th edition of OPEC's Annual Statistical Bulletin (ASB), Iran secured the highest oil revenue increase among the organization's members in 2024, with nearly 14% growth in revenue from oil exports. Based on the data, Iran earned more than \$46.776 billion from oil exports in 2024, while the figure stood at nearly \$41.129 billion in 2023. Following Iran, Venezuela achieved the best performance in terms of oil revenue growth, rising from \$13.088 billion in 2023 to \$18.372 billion in 2024. A notable point is that only four



OPEC members attained positive performance in increasing oil revenues in 2024. Apart from Iran and Venezuela, Nigeria with a \$1 billion growth and Equatorial Guinea with a slight increase of \$39 million rank next. This comes as OPEC members' total revenue from oil exports decreased by 4% overall, falling from \$678 billion in 2023 to approximately \$652 billion in 2024. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's oil revenues suffered a decrease of more than \$24 billion in 2024, reaching \$223 billion. Kuwait also experienced a \$9 billion decline, earning nearly \$69 billion in oil revenue last year.

INSO: Exports to 25 countries attest to quality of Iranian tractors

Economy Desk

The head of Standards of East Azarbaijan Province in northwest of Iran affirmed compliance with quality requirements and standards in the products of the Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, also known as ITMCO, stating "Exports of these products to more than 25 countries attest to the quality of domestic production." Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with the group managers and in response to a question about the standard status of tractors produced by the complex, the director-general, Shahram Kashani, said, "Considering the developments that have occurred in the tractor manufacturing group in recent years, the status of adherence to standard requirements in this industrial complex is good. Presence in international markets and the use of the domestically produced product in the farms of more than 25 countries worldwide serve as proof of this matter," ISNA reported. Kashani added that accessing international and transnational markets necessitates obtaining the standards of



the destination countries and regions for exported products. "Presence in this number of markets and agricultural farms worldwide, and obtaining the prevailing standards governing them, are the result of the standardization of the country's manufactured tractors. This is a source of pride for Iran's industry and economy." Emphasizing the participation of manufacturing units in developing national standards, Kashani added, "Producer participation in this regard paves the way for having more precise, more scientific, and more effective standards, consequently enabling the production

of higher-quality products." He stated that the Iran National Standards Organization (INSO) welcomes ITMCO's participation in setting standards for tractors and its other manufactured products, including road construction machinery. ITMCO manufactures tractors, trucks, auto parts, and diesel engines with a main site and headquarters in Tabriz, Iran. The Iranian Tractor Manufacturing Industrial Group is the largest producer of agricultural equipment in West Asia and has tractor assembly plants in several other countries.

Chamber head highlights growth of tech service exports to Iraq

Economy Desk

A senior Chamber of Commerce official in Ahvaz underscored the development of Iranian technical and engineering service exports to Iraq during a meeting with the CEO of Iraq's State Agricultural Equipment Company. Shahla Amouri, in her meeting with Talib Jasib al-Kaabi, CEO of Iraq's State Agricultural Equipment Company, highlighted the meeting's purpose, "This meeting was held with the goal of developing Iraq's agricultural infrastructure, transferring technical

knowledge, and realizing win-win economic and production achievements for both countries," ISNA reported. The vice president of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce highlighted Iran's unparalleled capacities, particularly in Khuzestan Province as an agricultural and industrial hub, noting, "Iran can play a pivotal role in meeting the needs of the Iraqi market by producing export-oriented agricultural products that aren't cultivated in Iraq." Amouri stressed the Ahvaz chamber's support for exporting techni-

cal engineering services and knowledge-based products, stating, "This approach not only helps preserve and expand the Iraqi market but can also serve as a platform for developing regional markets and making stronger inroads into Persian Gulf countries."

Iran's tech merits in regional competition

The Ahvaz chamber head underscored the importance of safeguarding the Iraqi market against regional competitors like Turkey and Saudi Arabia, emphasizing, "Targeted government

support, including low-interest banking facilities and export subsidies, is essential for the private sector." "By leveraging its capabilities in agricultural technologies – including advanced equipment production, agricultural drones, and modern irrigation systems – Iran can become a reliable partner for developing Iraq's agricultural sector," she explained. Amouri consequently requested that the Iraqi government facilitate market access for Iranian companies to enable joint investments and technology transfer.

Iran; a specialized partner

During the meeting, Kaabi welcomed Iran's capabilities and stressed the need to open new horizons for bilateral cooperation. Citing directives from Iraq's Agriculture Minister Abbas Jabr al-Malliki to utilize Iranian agricultural expertise, Kaabi noted, "Developing Iraq's agricultural sector requires cooperation with specialized international partners. Given Iran's advancements in agricultural technologies, it can play a significant role in this regard."