

VP reiterates Iran's opposition to foreign meddling in regional geopolitics

Aref: EAEU needs collective resilience against future shocks

Economy Desk

Iranian first vice president, in a meeting with the Russian prime minister in Kyrgyzstan on Friday, reaffirmed Tehran's strategic policy of opposing foreign interference in the region's geopolitics.

Also addressing the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Prime Ministers' Summit in Cholpon-Ata, Mohammad Reza Aref welcomed the Free Trade Agreement between Iran and the union, highlighting its potential to boost sustainable development, deepen economic ties, and build collective resilience against future shocks such as energy and food insecurity, climate change, and emerging technological threats, IRNA reported. In his meeting with Mikhail Mishustin on the sidelines of the summit on Friday, Aref highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral relations in regional affairs, announcing that Iran is fully prepared to expand bilateral, multilateral, and regional cooperation with Russia, as reported by fvpresident.ir. He stressed that, like Russia, Iran opposes US unilateralism in the world, and that a strategy of multilateralism, regional security, and stability should be pursued with the help of regional countries.

Referring to developments in the Caucasus, he stated that Iran welcomes any agreement and cooperation aimed at de-escalation and fostering friendly and close relations among regional and neighboring countries. However, he emphasized that Iran's strategic policy is non-interference by foreign countries and forces, particularly in the geopol-

itics of the region, as regional issues do not require foreign presence and all countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia can live together in peace, stability, and security. The remarks came a week after Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a peace treaty in Washington aimed at ending nearly four decades of conflict. Reports indicated that a US private consortium would oversee the Zangezur corridor along Iran's border, a development that has drawn Tehran's close attention. The vice president added that the scope of Tehran-Moscow cooperation goes beyond current capacities, but certain bureaucratic issues have slowed the process. He said cooperation should be pursued within the framework of a comprehensive strategic plan, especially in the fields of energy, tourism, transportation, rail, and transit corridors.

The Russian prime minister, for his part, described the North-South Corridor as a strategic highway, saying this international route will ensure the entire Eurasian region's connection to global markets. He noted that transport logistics for the North-South Corridor are actively being developed. The intergovernmental agreement to

Strategic corridor

establish the International North-South Multimodal Corridor was signed in 2000 by Russia, India, and Iran, aimed at transporting cargo from India, Iran, and other Persian Gulf states through Russian territory to Europe. Later, the number of member states increased to 14. Compared to the maritime route via the Suez Canal, this corridor reduces transport time and costs by more than half. Addressing the summit on Friday, Aref, expressing satisfaction over the Free Trade Agreement between Iran and



the Eurasian Economic Union now in effect, said the agreement will create exceptional opportunities for national economies, sustainable development, and deepening economic cooperation. The vice president noted that Iranian economic actors are increasingly aware of the benefits and potential of the Eurasian Economic Union agreement and are determined to enhance cooperation and participation in the union's supply and value chains. He stressed that new areas of cooperation should be put on the agenda.

Iran, he said, is ready to expand cooperation in other key areas such as trade and energy, modern technologies, commerce, and transportation alongside the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement. The first vice president emphasized that collective resilience is needed against future shocks — shocks such as energy insecurity, food insecurity, climate change, and threats stemming from new technologies, including the growing risks posed by monopolies in global financial and banking systems.

Russia negotiating construction of small modular NPPs with Iran: Rosatom



Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev
● VLADIMIR GERDO/TASS

Russia is holding talks with Iran on the construction of small modular nuclear power plants (NPP) on its territory, hoping to enter into relevant agreements in the future, Rosatom Chief Executive Officer Alexey Likhachev said in an interview with the Rossiya-1 TV channel. In early 2025, Iran suggested that the agenda of

cooperation in nuclear energy with Russia be expanded by adding the construction of small modular nuclear power plants in the Islamic Republic to the discussion, he noted, TASS reported. "Such negotiations are underway. I hope that sooner or later such agreements will be concluded," the chief executive said.

Russia has always been an active participant in the process of resolving the issues on Iranian nuclear activities, he stressed, adding that as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was formed and launched Moscow played a key role in providing technical and diplomatic support to Tehran.

In 2015, Iran and the world powers signed a landmark nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for partial relief from international sanctions. The three European signatories, Russia, France, the UK, along with China and Russia, are the only remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal after the US withdrawal in 2018.

EAEU ready to expand trade with Iran beyond Free Trade Agreement

Economy Desk

The Eurasian Economic Commission's trade minister, in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak, expressed the Eurasian Economic Union's readiness to expand trade with the Islamic Republic and described the prospects for bilateral cooperation as broad and extending beyond the current Free Trade Agreement. During a meeting with Atabak on the sidelines of the 43rd session of the Eurasian intergovernmental council on Friday, Andrey Slepnev stressed that the Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Islamic Republic "is not merely a free trade agreement, but a

qualitatively new level of engagement."

The Free Trade Agreement was signed between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Islamic Republic on May 14.

The Eurasian Economic Commission's trade chief added, "We see prospects for expanding cooperation in key sectors and increasing the volume of mutual trade." According to the report, Slepnev and Atabak reviewed the initial outcomes of the Free Trade Agreement's implementation since May 14, 2025, and outlined plans to deepen bilateral cooperation. The two sides announced readiness to hold the first joint committee meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Eurasian Eco-



Eurasian Economic Commission's Minister of Trade Andrey Slepnev (1st R) meets Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak (2nd L) on the sidelines of the EAEU Summit in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on August 14, 2025.
● IRNA

nomical Union, scheduled for this autumn. According to Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Bakytzhan Sagintayev, the roadmap for the free trade agreement is scheduled for approval during the joint committee meeting in September.

At the Friday meeting, it was agreed that specific mechanisms for implementing the Free Trade Agreement will be adopted in the upcoming

session. According to Slepnev, the draft roadmap for trade and economic cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union and Iran is in the final stages of approval.

Armenia to complete power transmission line to Iran in short time frame

Economy Desk

The Armenian government announced plans to complete the construction of an overhead power transmission line to Iran in a short period of time. According to ISNA, Yerevan has decided to finish the 400-kilovolt Iran-Armenia overhead transmission line and its related substation as soon as possible.

Citing Arka News Agency, the report said the project will increase electricity exchange capacity between Armenia and Iran from 350 megawatts to 1,200 megawatts. In addition, the project will enable full utilization of the Iran-Armenia gas pipeline's capacity under the "gas-for-electricity" scheme. In late April, Iranian Ambassador to Arme-

nia Mehdi Sobhani visited the 400-kilovolt substation for the third Iran-Armenia power transmission line in Noravan and expressed hope that the line would be operational within the next few months. The Iran-Armenia gas pipeline is a 140-kilometer pipeline that enables Iran to export natural gas to Armenia. The pipeline's Iranian section is 100 kilometers long, stretching from Tabriz to the Armenian

border, playing a significant role in energy ties between the two countries.

On November 21, 2024, the Armenian government approved an energy project to construct a new 400 kV power transmission line to Iran.

The project is also intended to support the development of the North-South Energy Corridor, which aims to connect the power grids of Iran, Armenia, Georgia, and Russia.



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