

Kuwait can act as Iran’s gateway to Arab markets, GCC: *Joint chamber*

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INTERVIEW

The vice president of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce lauded on Wednesday the high capacity of trade between the two countries, stressing that Kuwait can serve as Iran’s gateway to Arab markets and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)’s member states.

Arash Nikpey told Iran Daily that the volume of exchanges between the two sides can be increased to approximately 1 billion dollars, which is more than three times the current volume.

“The potential for trade between Iran and Kuwait, if the land route is facilitated, a joint committee is formed, and administrative obstacles are removed, can increase from the current 300 million dollars to 1 billion dollars within two to three years,” Nikpey said.

Pointing to the fact that the Kuwaiti market is thirsty for high-quality Iranian products, he stated, “Due to Kuwait’s need for various products, Kuwait’s imports from other countries amount to over 52 billion dollars annually. However, Iran’s share of the Kuwaiti market is very small and has much room for growth. Iran, with its strong industry, agriculture, and services, as well as skilled workforce, can have a higher share of Kuwait’s import

market, especially in food security, technical services, and construction.”

Nikpey underlined that the lack of a direct land route between Iran and Kuwait, as well as visa issuance challenges, are among the serious and main obstacles to the development of trade exchanges.

“Despite Iran being on the other side of the Persian Gulf, Iran and Kuwait do not share a common land border; therefore, for cargo transportation, there are only three existing routes, each facing challenges,” he said.

“The first route is by sea (Iranian ports to Shuwaikh or Shuaiba port in Kuwait), which is time-consuming and sometimes costly. The next route is an indirect land route through Iraq, which is not very safe due to Iraq’s security conditions, customs restrictions, and high costs. The third route is by air, which is suitable for light and high value-added goods, but the transportation cost via this route is very expensive,” he added.

The vice president of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce stressed that establishing a land trade route (transit through Iraq) by launching a road route from Iran to Kuwait via Iraq would reduce transportation costs and increase the competitiveness of Iranian goods in the Kuwaiti market.

Nikpey also said forming a joint trade committee and developing a roadmap will help increase trade between the two countries.

Referring to the necessity of Kuwaiti investment in Iran and vice versa, he said Kuwait in recent years has made significant investments in technology, health, financial services, and agriculture sectors, which can help deepen economic relations.

“The potential for developing regular shipping lines between Iranian ports (Bandar Abbas, Bushehr, Khorramshahr) and Kuwait can be very effective in developing exchanges,” Nikpey said, adding, “Kuwait can act as Iran’s gateway to Arab markets and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and significantly contribute to trade development in the north-western Persian Gulf.”

Touching on Iran’s exports to Kuwait, he also said Iran’s main exports in past years were agricultural and food products, and Iran has shown the capacity to export high-quality fresh agricultural products, such as fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, dairy products, to Kuwait.

Nikpey pointed to tourism and health tourism as another area for co-operation between Kuwait and Iran.

“With its pristine nature and four seasons, Iran can be a destination for health tourism for Kuwaiti citizens because, with its skilled doctors, much lower treatment costs, and suitable medical services compared to other countries, Iran is an



Kuwait’s Shuwaikh Port
● AFP



Arash Nikpey

attractive destination for health tourists from many countries,” he said.

Regarding the main obstacles and challenges to commercial cooperation between Iran and Kuwait, Nikpey said, “Increasing international sanctions against Iran and banking and financial sanctions make money transfers and

the opening of letters of credit (L/C) between the two countries difficult or, in some cases, impossible. On the other hand, many Kuwaiti companies, due to their close ties with the US and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, are afraid of direct cooperation with Iran.”

Banking and currency problems and the absence of correspon-

dent banks and a transparent financial channel between Iran and Kuwait are obstacles to trade, he said, adding, currently, trade is often conducted through exchange offices or intermediaries, which increases costs and risks.

Nikpey stressed that Iran’s competitors in the Kuwaiti market are Turkey, China, India, and the UAE.



● IRNA

Pezeshkian stresses acceleration of flare gas curb projects to combat pollution

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized on Wednesday his administration’s commitment to accelerating efforts to curb gas flaring, saying no official should be indifferent to the burning of the country’s wealth and resources in the form of implementing the associated gas control plan.

Stressing that gas flaring has caused severe air pollution across the country, Pezeshkian said, “Not even a single day

should be overlooked in achieving the early results of the various parts of the containment plan.”

Emphasizing that equipment procurement for the containment project should not be delayed by administrative complexities, the president said, “Although domestic equipment procurement takes precedence over foreign procurement, the quality and final price of devices and equipment, the production capacity of domestic units, and whether these equipment are truly pro-

duced domestically or if their parts are imported from abroad and merely assembled here and offered at a higher price, must be carefully considered by suppliers.”

Pezeshkian also emphasized that, in addition to creating an online dashboard, the technical and visual monitoring of the progress of gas flaring reduction projects should be made available to him in his personal office as soon as possible, so that he can personally follow up on it on a daily basis.

Tehran-Ankara trade exchanges target \$10b milestone next year: *Minister*

Economy Desk

Iran’s industry, mining and trade minister emphasized in a meeting with his Turkish counterpart on Wednesday the necessity of removing obstacles to the development of economic cooperation between Tehran and Ankara, announcing a \$2 billion increase in the volume of trade exchanges that would bring the total trade volume between the two sides to \$10 billion next year.

Mohammad Atabak, who traveled to Turkey to participate in the ECO Trade Ministers’ meeting, made the announcement in his meeting with Omer Bolat as the two discussed trade relations between Iran and Turkey.

Atabak called Turkey one of the most important trade partners of the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasized the necessity of increasing trade between the two countries.

“Trade between Turkey and Iran has the potential for a big leap, and we hope to achieve this great goal by removing some minor obstacles,” he said. Bolat, for his part, referred to a five percent increase in the volume of trade between Turkey and Iran in the current year and added, “We have now



Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Mohammad Atabak (L) meets with his Turkish counterpart, Omer Bolat, in the capital Ankara on November 26, 2025.
● IRNA

reached a trade volume of \$8 billion between the two countries, and we aim for \$10 billion next year.”

Based on the historical background and neighborliness of the two countries, Turkey is ready to develop trade relations with Iran, he stressed.

The two ministers also discussed some bilateral trade issues between the two countries, and understandings were reached in this regard.

35 Chinese trains cross Iran in seven months as int’l rail transport posts 12% growth: *Official*

Economy Desk

The director general of foreign trade of Iran’s Railway praised the achievements of the current government’s railway diplomacy, underlining the remarkable growth in Europe-China exchanges via Iran and the arrival of dozens of Chinese trains as the Islamic Republic moves to play a more active intermediary role.

Shahriar Naqizadeh was cited by IRNA as saying that Iran is located at the intersection of the most important corridors in the region, and with the recent six-party agreement in Istanbul, the ground for a leap in China-Europe exchanges via Iran has been provided.

Naqizadeh pointed to the country’s unique geographical location, stressing, “Iran is at the center

of important regional corridors and, as the corridor crossroads of the region, is the intersection of East-West and North-South corridors.”

Highlighting a historical growth in the entry of Chinese trains and a 12% increase in international rail transport, he said, “Last week in Istanbul, Turkey, we succeeded in reaching an important six-party agreement between China, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Turkey, the goal of which is to develop commodity exchanges from China to Europe via Iran. In this agreement, a very good understanding was reached on two axes: reducing tariff costs and reducing transit time.”

Naqizadeh stressed that the East-West corridor has now been able to reduce the transit time



● IRNA

of goods by about one-third compared to the sea route.

Referring to the unprecedented growth of incoming trains from China, Naqizadeh said, “Before 2024, only seven trains had entered Iran from China in seven years; but in the first seven months of this year, the thirty-fifth train is entering the country, and four more trains have departed from Xi’an station and will enter Iran in the coming weeks.”

Pointing to the country’s rail performance in the international sector, he said, “In the past year, we succeeded in exceeding five million tons of international transport. This year, despite the challenges, the growth trend continued, and so far, three million and 600 thousand tons of various goods have been transported in the international sector, which shows a 12% increase compared to the same period last year.”