

April 2025

ELITE PARS

Law Firm



Introduction

Established in 2019, Elite Pars is a boutique law firm with professional lawyers and legal minds as its core team. Lawyers at Elite Pars render legal advice on a wide range of matters in parallel to dealing with various local, regional and international arbitration and litigation cases.

Elite Pars draws strength from its diversity. We recruit from a wide variety of backgrounds, seeking out the best and those with the highest potential and we invest in their development. Our profound knowledge of assorted legal areas, enables us to efficiently guide our clients through the most complex matters they are facing. Furthermore, our practical experience provides us with insights that help us assist our clients in achieving their legal goals.

In case you have any queries regarding this document or would like to inquire as to how we could serve you best, please feel free to contact our partners Dr. Navid Sato and/or Dr. Nima Nasrollahi via n.sato@elitepars.com and/ or n.nasrollahi@elitepars.com.



LEGAL UPDATE: APRIL 2025

LAW APPROVING IRAN'S ACCESSION TO THE VIENNA AND STRASBOURG AGREEMENTS ON TRADEMARK AND PATENT CLASSIFICATION

Iran has acceded to the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks and the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification on 9 April 2025. Pursuant to this decision, Iran will be obligated to comply with the provisions and terms of these agreements for the same duration as the Paris Convention.

Although both agreements address international classification under industrial property, they have different characteristics. Given Iran's needs in the classification of figurative marks and patents, and considering its scientific and industrial exchanges with other member states, the accession of Iran to these two agreements may enhance international cooperation, while addressing the nation's scientific and industrial requirements.

This decision stems from the fact that adopting a global system for the international classification of patents, inventors' certificates, and utility model certificates benefits all parties and enhances international cooperation in industrial property. The global value of this system, particularly for developing countries, facilitates their easier access to the ever-expanding volume of technologies.

Henceforth, Iran shall adopt the same classification system for patents, inventors' certificates, and utility model certificates as the contracting states of this agreement. So, international cooperation in the reclassification of patent examination documentation will be enhanced, with particular consideration for the needs of developing countries.

The constitutional provisions of Iran requiring the approval of international agreements by the Parliament and their endorsement by the Constitutional Council have been duly observed and fulfilled.

IRAN UNVEILS \$4.05 BILLION AIRPORT INVESTMENT PACKAGE TO BOOST PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Iran's Airports and Air Navigation Company has announced a comprehensive investment package valued at 330 trillion Iranian rials, approximately \$4.05 billion USD as of April 2025, to modernize and expand airport infrastructure nationwide, aligning with the government's annual economic development agenda. Director General of the Office of Commerce and Investment at the company emphasized that this initiative aims to balance aviation and non-aviation revenues by incentivizing private sector engagement through tailored financial mechanisms. Currently, airport revenues are derived from aviation-related activities (e.g., landing fees) and non-aviation ventures such as retail, hospitality, and logistics, with the latter targeted for growth via public-private partnerships (PPPs).

To streamline investments, 14 priority project bundles have been structured for private participation, utilizing models like Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Lease-Transfer (BLT), and Renovate-Operate-Transfer (ROT). High-value investments exceeding 1 trillion tomans (roughly \$12.3 million USD as of April 2025) will receive expedited regulatory approvals through a dedicated committee. Key projects include a 120,000-square-meter terminal at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, hotels in Mashhad and Kerman airports, a solar energy plant network to meet a mandated 20% renewable energy quota for airports, and a logistics terminal at Bandar Abbas Airport to bolster multimodal transport. Director General of the Office of Commerce and Investment at the company highlighted that these projects align with broader goals of enhancing service quality, job creation, and technological innovation while leveraging underutilized assets.

The investment framework also incorporates urban development regulations, requiring private developers to obtain permits from a central authority. Following the expiration of the contract, existing investors can retain priority rights for subsequent operations. With non-aviation revenue growth central to financial sustainability, this initiative signals Iran's strategic pivot toward diversifying airport economies amid evolving global travel demands. For investors, the emphasis on renewable energy, tourism-linked infrastructure, and streamlined bureaucratic processes presents a calculated opportunity to tap into Iran's aviation sector. The projects' scale and regulatory adjustments reflect

efforts to mitigate investment risks while capitalizing on long-term infrastructure gaps.

IRAN AND KYRGYZSTAN LAUNCH €50M PARTNERSHIP: NEW ERA OF EURASIAN TRADE

Iran and Kyrgyzstan, two countries with close cultural background and diplomatic relations, have recently convened their 14th Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran. This meeting resulted in the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two nations for the expansion of trade and investment, the establishment of a joint investment committee and a bilateral investment office.

The trade relationship between Iran and Kyrgyzstan should be understood within the broader framework of Iran's Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), ratified by Iran on March 2, 2025. This agreement provides mutual advantages for Iran and the EAEU member states by allowing access to preferential trade regimes, streamlined customs procedures, and simplified import regulations.

In the meeting, both parties expressed strong desires to increase collaboration in various sectors such as agriculture, industry, energy, and technology under the Eurasian Free Trade Agreement. Joint fish farming, livestock feed production, and cooperation in plant and animal quarantine were specific areas where both parties reached consensus for future engagements. Moreover, under the framework of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), the Kyrgyz



delegation expressed support for investing in Iranian ports. Facilitation of visa issuance and acceleration of air route development between Iran and Kyrgyzstan were also emphasized during the meeting.

Kyrgyzstan has experienced stable economic growth and low inflation rate in recent years, making it a reliable candidate for launching trade and economic projects. During the past year, trade relations between Iran and Kyrgyzstan increased by 31%. To expand this further, Iran's National Development Fund signed a credit line agreement worth \$50 million to support Iranian exporters in financing their projects in Kyrgyzstan, with the option to double this amount to \$100 million based on exporter performance. These funds would be directly provided to the applicants through Iranian banks.

In conclusion, in light of the shared cultural and historical ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan since 1992, it is expected that their economic collaboration will lead to enhanced mutual economic gains and a more robust economic environment. This will particularly be achieved through the development of Kyrgyz infrastructure and the provision of profitable opportunities for Iranian equipment and services in joint projects.

STRENGTHENING IRAN-AFRICA ECONOMIC TIES: KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE 3RD IRAN-AFRICA SUMMIT

The Third Iran-Africa International Economic Conference is ongoing at the same time with Iran Expo 2025 exhibition in Tehran with the participation of Iran's President; Iranian Vice-

President; representatives from Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade; as well as numerous dignitaries from Africa. More than 700 traders from African countries, along are present at this summit.

This summit is an opportunity for African guests to be familiar with export capacities of Iran, Iran's cooperation with Africa since Africa is a vast market for presence of Iranian businessman. Also, African countries need to import goods and services in order to overcome their historical challenges.

Besides summit's panels covering financial, banking, and logistics relations, as well as petrochemicals; mining, mineral and metals industries; along with agriculture, food industries and health, which are key areas of Iran's economic cooperation, visiting the Iran Expo exhibition and industrial center, factories and handicrafts in Isfahan province are planned.

In addition, since Iran has prioritized developing trade with African countries, the government has adopted measures to facilitate logistical transport relations with Africa. Multiple resolutions have been developed to facilitate air and maritime transportation. Following the summit, relevant proposals will be submitted to the Trade Promotion Organization to pursue this goal.

One of the specific measures adopted during the Summit is the issuance of investment guarantee packages by Iran Export Guarantee Fund to support Iranian traders and businesses in the African Market. These

guarantee packages will cover up to 4.429 billion euros in risks associated with conducting business and trade activities for Iranian traders in 54 member countries of the African Union.

The packages consist of four categories: 1) Export Deposit Insurances: This category supports the export of goods and services to the African region. 2) Letter of Credit: This category involves issuing letter of credit for financing active traders in the region. It also enables traders to participate in African Union tenders. 3) Investment Insurances: The third category includes issuing investment insurance for covering investment-related risks in Africa. 4) Evaluation of African Corporations: The final category involves assessing African corporations and determining their rating and credit threshold, aiming to enhance familiarity with African partners.

Iran Export Fund has previously provided 581 million euros in risk coverage and paid out 89 million euros to compensate Iranian traders affected in the African region.



Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato

Managing Partner

Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato is a founding partner and the managing director of Elite Pars Law Firm. He is a qualified international and domestic lawyer in the Iranian market with a primary focus on cross border transactions and oil and gas law. With several years of experience, he has extensive comprehension of the national, regional and international commercial legal systems. He also handles litigation and arbitration cases where he sets out the legal strategies and heads the team in the process. He particularly advises clients on energy law, foreign direct investment, incorporation, mergers and acquisitions as well as import and export regulations in the region including sanctions' compliance matters.

Navid holds an SJD from Washington College of Law and is a Vanderbilt LL. M. graduate of NYU School of Law and an International Trade Law LLM graduate of the American University of Washington D.C. He is an assistant professor at Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran. Navid speaks fluent Farsi and English, as well as basic French and Japanese.
Email: n.sato@elitepars.com



Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri

Partner

Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri is a founding partner at Elite Pars Law Firm and heads the energy, investment law and arbitration practices of the firm. He is a seasoned lawyer in the field of oil and gas and renewable energies and has advised major international oil companies with respect to their participation in Iranian oil and gas projects. He holds a PhD in International Investment Law and has completed the LL. M. program of University of Dundee in Petroleum Law and Policy. He has a long list of Persian and English publications and is currently the director of oil and gas law LL. M. program at the University of Science and Culture in Tehran where he is now supervising several dissertation theses, mostly related to the same field as well as commercial arbitration. Nima regularly does pro bono educational activities. He speaks Farsi, fluent English and intermediate French and Arabic.

Email: n.nasrollahi@elitepars.com



CONTACT US:

Tel. +98 21 22 01 6586

Fax. +98 21 22 01 8928

Email: Info@elitepars.com

www.elitepars.com

ADDRESS:

Second floor, 42 Soltani (Sayeh) St. Nelson
Mandela Ave. Tehran. 1967733818