

February 2023

ELITE PARS

Law Firm

Legal Update Prepared for
Elite Pars Clients



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: FEBRUARY 2023

DECISION NO. 827 OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF IRAN REGARDING JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL DECISIONS

It is well established that regulatory decisions of city councils could be reviewed and potentially voided in the Administrative Court of Justice (ACJ). However, according to the judicial precedent there was some ambiguity about the competent court to review the ad hoc decisions of city councils. A regulatory decision has a general and legislative nature, while an ad hoc decision deals with a specific situation and specific party/parties.

For instance, the city council may set some standards for granting a construction license. This is a regulatory decision. But a decision to grant or deny a license for construction of a specific shopping mall is an ad hoc decision. While most ad hoc decisions of these kind are taken by administrative agencies of municipalities, in some instances, city councils take the matters to their own hands and issue an ad hoc decision.

The judicial precedent was quite chaotic regarding judicial review of such ad hoc decisions. While some believed such decisions should be reviewed by the Administrative Court of Justice, others believed general courts are competent. This recent decision by the General Board of the Supreme Court of Iran (decision No. 827) settles the issue, and henceforth, ad hoc decisions of city councils could be reviewed by ACJ.

The catch is while regulatory decisions of city councils could be reviewed by the Plenary

Board of ACJ, ad hoc decisions shall be reviewed by branches of ACJ.

EXPORT OF PHARMACEUTICAL NUCLEAR PRODUCTS BY IRAN

Head of Iran Atomic Energy Organization ("AEOI"), Mohammad Eslami recently announced Iran's intention to export technological products in the nuclear field.

On the sidelines of the 29th Iranian Nuclear Conference at Shahid Beheshti University, Muhammad Eslami announced the scientific breakthroughs of local nuclear scientists during the current Iranian year. AEOI launched the second phase of manufacturing deuterium drugs in Arak Heavy Water Reactor Facility in April 2021 and now is hoping for becoming a global hub for deuterium drugs. Refuting claims by United States and its allies that Iran is developing nuclear weapons, Iranian authorities state that Iran has not attempted to enrich uranium beyond the 60 percent threshold and its nuclear program is completely peaceful.

On a separate note, Spokesmen of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said that the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi is going to visit Iran in the next couple of days.

OMAN ACTING AS THE INTERMEDIARY IN IRAN-USA RELATIONS

Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq, will visit Tehran to hold talks regarding the stalled nuclear negotiation between Iran and the West. Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir

Abdollahian has announced the upcoming trip of the Sultan of Oman to Iran to discuss 2015 nuclear deal, known as JCPOA. Oman has often acted as a mediator to help facilitate back-door diplomacy between the USA and Iran. A member of the National Security Commission of Iranian Parliament added that the Central Bank of Qatar is also trying to play the role of a mediator in connection with monetary and banking issues among Iran and USA and a series of indirect negotiations are now taking place between the US Treasury and the Central Bank of Iran through the Central Bank of Qatar.

Amir Abdollahian also mentioned that during the visit of Iranian President to Beijing, the Chinese authorities expressed their readiness to play a role in establishing relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.



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.

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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.

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