

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.



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THE DIGITAL RIAL: IRAN'S LEAP INTO MODERN BANKING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Iran is on the brink of a financial revolution with the imminent launch of the Digital Rial, a digital currency developed by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). This initiative is part of Iran's larger strategy to modernize its banking system and enhance international financial cooperation, particularly within the framework of the newly launched "ACU-MIR" system. As the nation aims to leverage digital currency to streamline transactions and sustain economic growth, the Digital Rial stands at the forefront of a transformative journey.

By introducing a state-backed digital currency, Iran is poised to improve transaction efficiency and foster economic resilience, especially in light of ongoing sanctions. The CBI's commitment to implementing the Digital Rial comes alongside the development of the ACU-MIR platform, which serves as a viable alternative to the SWIFT system for facilitating transactions among Asian nations, including key partners like India and Pakistan.

With the ACU-MIR system becoming fully operational on 2 October 2024, Iran is enhancing its financial operations and strengthening ties with BRICS nations. This integration is crucial as it allows Iran to utilize local currencies for international trade, thereby circumventing some of the challenges posed by traditional financial systems. As countries like China and Russia advance in this direction, the Digital Rial will provide Iran with

the tools necessary to engage more effectively in global commerce.

Additionally, the introduction of digital currency aligns with the advancements made by Iran's Shetab payment network, which boasts transaction processing capabilities of under two seconds. For instance, by connecting Shetab with Russia's MIR system, Iranian banks are paving the way for swift and efficient cross-border transactions. Future plans to enable Russian tourists to use Iran's point-of-sale systems and vice versa by early 2025 further demonstrate the CBI's vision for a cohesive banking ecosystem that supports international tourism and trade.

As the Digital Rial approaches operational status, it is expected not only to modernize payment systems within Iran but also to facilitate international financial exchanges through a new cross-border settlement platform currently in the development phase. This platform aims to create seamless financial interactions, bolstering Iran's role as a central player in Asian financial cooperation.

REVIVING ECONOMIC TIES: IRAN AND TURKEY SET FOR KEY TRADE MEETING

Tehran is set to host the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee meeting on 9 December 2024. With annual trade exceeding \$12 billion, Turkey remains one of Iran's most important trade partners. This upcoming meeting aims to reinvigorate discussions that have been sorely missed, as the joint commission has not convened for the past three years.

In the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - September 22), Iran's exports

to Turkey demonstrated robust activity, totaling \$2.4 billion. This positioned Turkey as the fourth-largest destination for Iranian non-oil goods among its neighboring countries. Conversely, Turkey solidified its role as a vital supplier, providing Iran with \$5.1 billion worth of imports during the same period, thereby becoming the third-largest source of imports for Iran. These figures highlight the interconnectedness of both economies and the importance of Turkey as a key player in Iran's trade landscape.

As preparations for the upcoming discussions unfold, both states are likely to focus on critical areas such as streamlining trade processes and identifying existing barriers that hinder trade flow. Additionally, exploring collaborative projects will be essential for enhancing economic resilience and fostering growth. The bilateral engagement at the Joint Economic Committee holds the promise of generating new initiatives that can further strengthen the economic foundations shared by Iran and Turkey.

STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND BELARUS IN THE MINING SECTOR

In a significant move towards enhancing bilateral relations, Iran's commitment to deepening cooperation with Belarus was prominently highlighted during a meeting at The 18th International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery & Related Industries & Equipment (Iran CONMINE 2024), held from November 23rd to 26th, 2024. This prestigious international event showcased the latest developments in mining technologies, creating a valuable platform for industry

leaders and stakeholders to explore opportunities for collaboration.

During the meeting, officials from Iran and Belarus emphasized the substantial potential for collaboration between the two countries, particularly in the realm of mining machinery. With Belarus recognized as a key supplier of mining equipment, the event served as an ideal setting to underline the nation's renowned expertise in this field.

Iran has demonstrated a commitment to strengthening mining partnerships not only with Belarus but also with other countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. This strategy highlights Iran's focus on diversifying its collaborations and seeking foreign expertise and investment in its mining sector.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Commission meeting scheduled for December 14, 2024, is set to play a crucial role in these collaborative efforts. Iran aims to ensure that mining industry operators actively participate in this meeting, emphasizing the importance of private sector involvement in fostering meaningful partnerships. Such collaboration is expected to significantly enhance the potential for innovation and growth in both nations' mining industries.

As Iran and Belarus continue to explore avenues for collaboration in the mining sector, the commitment to building stronger economic ties is clearer than ever. The successful engagement at the Iran CONMINE 2024 exhibition, coupled with the upcoming Joint Economic Commission meeting,



highlights the mutual interests and potential for shared growth in mining technology and services. By leveraging each other's strengths and expertise, both countries are poised to navigate the complexities of the global mining landscape, transforming challenges into opportunities for a prosperous future.



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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