

# CEO of Chabahar Free Zone; North-South Corridor, the Best Way to Develop Economic Relations between Iran and Russia

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According to the report of Public Relations and International Affairs of Chabahar Free Zone, the CEO of Chabahar Free Zone said: Considering the serious determination of Iran and Russia to develop the North-South Corridor, next year can be the year of economic leap and prosperity for this corridor. On December 10, the Chabahar Free Zone hosted a meeting between "Amir Moghaddam," CEO of the Chabahar Free Zone, "Sergei Miloshkin," CEO of the Special Economic Zone Lotus (SEZ Lotus), Astrakhan, Russia, and "Oleg Savchenko," Vice President of the Russian Duma, with the goal of examining ways to activate the North-South International Corridor in order to use the unique position of Chabahar to access the markets.

The North-South International Corridor's advancement was highlighted during this meeting by the CEO of Chabahar Free Zone, who added that while there are many potential avenues for the development of Iran-Russia relations, the activation of this corridor may be the most advantageous given the current circumstances. It is unclear why the operation was halted after we successfully moved certain commodities from India through Iran and finally to Russia.

The creation of a committee to revise and enhance legislation, foster ties, and expedite transportation is supported by Iran, according to Moghaddam, who also said that the Russian and Iranian positions on the development of the North-South corridor are very similar. The message of the discussions at this meeting, he said, demonstrates a strong commitment to working fast and on schedule. We also have a strong commitment to granting this request. We value time highly as well, thus Chabahar Free Zone is working to make the North-South Corridor more operational by utilizing the Tehran Secretariat's capability and the regional cooperation that will take place.

Next Year can be the Year of Economic Leap and Prosperity for this Corridor. The CEO of Chabahar Free Zone said: "Perhaps it is necessary to know the amount of transit in terms of volume at another level of meetings in order to slightly advance the infrastructure and laws in accordance with this targeting." These meetings should continue and from today we consider you as a successful business partner and we are ready to expand the cooperation



Sergei Miloshkin mentioned that the Russian government is ready to make changes in the laws to facilitate the work. In terms of logistics, there are two issues of infrastructure and documents to facilitate transportation; limitations must be raised and resolved in order for things to move forward. We will create a committee with Iran to change the laws or a committee on administrative restrictions to facilitate the activity of the corridor.

CEO of SEZ Lotus, saying that we rely on joint decisions, continued: The creation of this union should be supported by the ministers of economic development of the two countries, or it may be signed by the heads of state. In any case, they should help us to remove the restrictions.

"Organizing the transfer of technologies" was another important issue for Russia, which Miloshkin pointed to and said: there is no search for technologies in Russia and it should be transferred to Russia. Another issue is to create a freight workshop for the growth of businesses and familiarization with the markets, the center of which will be the Chabahar Free Zone.

He stated: "The goals of this union are currently the development of the North-South corridor, technology transfer and the creation of a freight workshop that may increase in the future. The issue of logistics is very important because other things depend on it, and in general, creating a union is the most appropriate way to implement the project.

The Addition of Two Free Zones of India to the Joint Union of Free Zones

In the continuation of his speech, Miloshkin stated that the negotiations will continue and it is possible that two free zones in India will be added to this union in the future. Regarding the development plan of the union or joint council of free zones between Russia, Iran and India he mentioned: "In the first phase of the union, we create a union between the two free zones of Russia

in Moscow and Astrakhan and register it as an international organization. Before doing so, we will coordinate the documents with you and then enter the union or council in the two free zones of Anzali and Chabahar. These 4 zones start their activities with equal rights. A place of coordination will be created and there will be continuous interaction between the heads and we will report to the governments. In the future, we will create other positions that will work as operators of the North-South Corridor unit. He added: There are infrastructures for the corridor that can be improved and we are working on them. We must have a unified behavior so that the transportation takes place in the corridor. It is possible that two free zones in India will be added to it in the future, in which case we will create a .logistics system and advance the goals. All six free zones will have equal rights

