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# Elimination Of Sanctions Against Iran To Contribute To The Development Of Armenian-Iranian Relations

By Alisa Gevorgyan

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The elimination of sanctions against Iran will contribute to the mitigation of tension in the region, which will, in turn, positively affect the Armenian-Iranian relations," Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iran to Armenia Mohammad Reisi told a press conference in Yerevan.

Iran and the world powers agreed on a long-awaited deal on Tehran's nuclear energy program, after days of intense talks in Geneva.

The interim deal allows for Iran to continue its activities in its nuclear sites in the cities of Arak, Fordo, and Natanz. The agreement also stipulates that no additional sanctions will be imposed on Iran due to its nuclear energy program.

Iran will also receive access to USD 4.2 billion in foreign exchange as part of the nuclear deal.

"Iran is against any weapon of mass destruction, including nuclear.

Our objective is to develop a peaceful nuclear program," the Ambassador said.

Mohammad Reisi noted that the suspension of implementation of some agreements with Armenia was connected with financial problems that resulted from international sanctions. "Despite that, our cooperation with friendly Armenia continues. The city of Agarak and the surrounding settlements are being gasified with the support of the Iranian Government. The large-scale program of Meghri Hydro Power Plant will also continue after the sanctions are lifted," he said.

The Armenian railway project may also be realized, if the Armenian side finds means for the construction of the Armenian section of the railroad. The Iranian Government is ready to finance the construction of the Julfa-Meghri sector from the state budget.

Mohammad Reisi welcomed the deepening of relations of Armenia and Russia, noting that both are Iran's friends.

Touching upon Azerbaijan's claims on Iranian territories, the Ambassador noted: "Those claims are groundless, because Azerbaijan was created in 1918. Azerbaijan lays claims on Armenian territories, as well, but one should bases for such demands."

Speaking about the supply of Iranian gas to Armenia and the increase of its volumes, the Ambassador said today Armenia gets gas against electricity, and the increase of the volume depends on the decision of the Armenian authorities.

"Whatever, the Armenian-Iranian economic relations will rise to a new level after the agreement reached in Geneva," Ambassador Reisi concluded.

<http://www.armradio.am/en/2013/12/03/elimination-of-sanctions-against-iran-to-contribute-to-the-development-of-armenian-iranian-relations/>

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## **Iran Ready To Launch Meghri HPP Program Upon Solution Of Financial Issues**

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YEREVAN - Positive conclusion of the Iran's nuclear program-related negotiations and the removal of sanctions will allow continuing and deepening the cooperation with Armenia. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Armenia Mohammad Reisi stated about it at the press conference. "Because of the nuclear program the sanctions were too strict and illegal and the delay of some agreements with our friendly country Armenia was conditioned by financial and banking issues. Notwithstanding those sanctions our economic cooperation with Armenia continues", - said the Ambassador, adding that the works of the Meghri Hydropower Plant program will restart after the settlement of the financial and banking issues.

Armenpress reports that answering the question on the clarification of the terms of the Iran-Armenia railway construction, Mohammad Reisi stated that as in the past, now as well Iran informed the Armenian authorities that it is ready to build its part of the railway - Julfa-Meghri - with its own means, when Armenia finds funds for the construction of its part.

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/742419/iran-ready-to-launch-meghri-hpp-program-upon-solution-of-financial-issues.html>

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## **Ambassador: Iran Gas Supplies To Armenia Depend On Armenia Authorities' Will**

By Nana Martirosyan  
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Iranian gas supplies to Armenia depend on the Armenian authorities' will only, Iran's Ambassador to Armenia Mohammad Reisi said at a press conference in Yerevan.

He said that Iran is ready to continue the energy cooperation with Armenia and if Armenia wants, the cooperation may increase the supplies of Iranian gas to Armenia. When asked at what price Iran is ready to supply gas to Armenia, the Ambassador said that Iran generally supplies gas to other countries at market prices, but so far it has supplied gas to Armenia in exchange for Armenian electric power. "This issue is tackled through negotiations. Iran is ready to continue and expand the energy cooperation with Armenia, but everything depends on the Armenian authorities' stance", he said.

Reisi thinks that the sale of 20% of ArmRusgasprom's shares to Gazprom (Russia) cannot have a negative effect on the Armenian-Iranian relations. "We are concerned about that, because Iran itself exports electric power. But I do not think that the agreements with Russia may somehow affect the power supplies from Armenia", he said.

As regards the promotion of the two countries' relations and the construction of the Armenian-Iranian railway, Reisi stressed that his country is ready to launch the construction at any moment. "If Armenia is

able to find funds and start the construction, Iran will immediately launch the construction of the Julfa- Meghri section", said the diplomat.

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