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Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh's visit to Germany marks the beginning of a new era between Germany and the I.R. of Iran

by Helene Rang



H.E. Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade

The election of **H.E. Hassan Rohani** as the new Iranian President marks the beginning of a new era of relations with the West. Today, negotiations with the P5+1 group are showing many positive signs towards a lifting of all sanctions, and European countries are preparing for the post-sanction era.

A 140-member delegation of French companies visited Tehran in February, while the Iranian Minister of Agriculture travelled to Italy on official business and the Austrian President is to be welcomed in Iran, travelling with a business dele-

gation, indicating that Germany needs to make similar efforts to intensify its relations.

Iran has the economic potential to play an essential role in the Middle East and beyond. According to OPEC data, the country possesses the largest proven natural gas reserves and the third largest proven crude oil reserves. Furthermore, Iran has considerable quantities of coal, iron ore and copper. However, natural resources are far from Iran's only asset, as its young and highly educated population is also striving to modernise the economy.

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