

PRESS RELEASE

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ETDB President Participates in the 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan, President of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB), participated in the 28th ECO Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held in Mashhad, Iran. As the highest decision-making body of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the COM brings together the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States to oversee the organization's key policies, strategies, programs, and governance, shaping the regional agenda and fostering cooperation among members.

In his address, the ETDB President highlighted the Bank's achievements since its establishment in 2008.

The President also announced ETDB's recent accomplishment of securing its first credit rating, a milestone reflecting the Bank's growing credibility and operational stability. He emphasized that this would be a step toward enhancing ETDB's ability to raise funds and expand its development impact across the ECO region.



The President encouraged member states to submit viable, bankable projects and highlighted ongoing efforts to introduce new instruments such as guarantees, local currency lending, and specialized trade finance funds. He called for the formalization of a capital increase to support the Bank's expanding operations and reiterated the importance of broadening ETDB's membership base, extending an invitation to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to join the Bank.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Dr. Botshekan held discussions with the foreign ministers of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan, emphasizing their support for ETDB's future initiatives and growth.