

PRESS RELEASE

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ETDB President Participates in the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport

Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan, President of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB), participated in the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held on 2 June 2025 in Tehran, Iran. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Farzaneh Sadegh, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, and brought together transport ministers and senior officials from ECO Member States to discuss regional connectivity, infrastructure development, and strategic cooperation under the theme "Improving the Sustainability of Transport in Light of Regional Integration."

In his address, the ETDB President highlighted the strategic role of the ECO region in international transport corridors and underlined the importance of securing cost-effective financing for multimodal infrastructure projects. He emphasized that while such projects are capital-intensive and often beyond the capacity of any single institution, ETDB is prepared to act as a lead arranger and catalyst for mobilizing necessary funds by engaging the private sector and employing innovative financing methods such as syndicated loans, project bonds, and joint ventures.

Dr. Botshekan also briefed participants on the Bank's recent progress, including the achievement of its first external credit rating, expansion of its project portfolio



across different sectors, and continued support for small and medium enterprises. He noted the Bank's support for development and emergency response efforts across the region, as well as its plans to introduce new financial instruments to better serve member states' evolving needs.

In closing, Dr. Botshekan reiterated the importance of expanding the Bank's membership and extended a renewed invitation to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to join the ETDB.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Dr. Botshekan met with H.E. Farzaneh Sadegh to discuss avenues for enhancing the Bank's role in regional development.