

# The British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce

NIOC House, 4 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0NE

Tel: 020 7233 4441 Fax: 020 7233 4442

E-mail: [admin@bicc.org.uk](mailto:admin@bicc.org.uk)/Website: [www.bicc.org.uk](http://www.bicc.org.uk)



Chairman : The Rt Hon Lord Lamont of Lerwick Director General:  
Martin Johnston Deputy Chairmen: Dr Amir Soleymani, Dr Cyrus Mehdi-Zadeh  
Legal Adviser: WLegal

1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Dear Member

I writing to let you know about some important changes at BICC.

After 15 years Martin Johnston, has decided to retire as Director General with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March. Martin has given outstanding service to the Chamber. Promoting trade with Iran is a difficult task at the best of times but with patience, determination and hard work Martin kept the Chamber going through some difficult periods and never wavered in his enthusiasm for the task. Thanks to Martin the Chamber today is in a strong position and , for many businesses, is the main conduit for trade with Iran. We shall miss Martin very much though he will be remaining as a Consultant to be called on by the Board as and when required.

Paul Wilson (presently deputy Director General) will take over from Martin as Director General.

Many will know Paul already as he has been with the Chamber for nearly 18 months; he is well inducted into our operations and he has developed aspects of BICC's services for UK exporters. Paul came from De La Rue where he had a senior position, but before then he had served in the FCO in various capacities. I am sure he will be a worthy successor to Martin

Last Friday the Board unanimously elected Dr Cyrus Mehdi-Zadeh as a Deputy Chairman. Cyrus has been a BICC director since 1998 and has been instrumental in developing relationships with both some large UK companies interested in Iran and a range of Iranian parties relevant to UK/Iran trade. Also, Alan Rides, a long-term director of BICC, who is well-known in the market for his experience of doing business with Iran, will lead on major events, such as conferences, organised by the Chamber.

I am confident that these new arrangements will continue to allow BICC to provide strong service to UK exporters.

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As I announced at the AGM, we have been given notice to quit our Office in NIOC House. We have identified a new office and are negotiating for the lease now: we hope this will be available to us shortly. I ask for your indulgence if the transfer is not entirely seamless but as soon as possible we will let you know the date of transfer of offices and contact details.

We will have a full range of events in 2018, starting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, the details of which will be circulated when they are finalised



**Lord Lamont**