



## Danial Rahmat

Senior Energy Security Consultant

### The war in Ukraine has stymied the JCPOA deal.

The deal was about to be signed earlier this year, but then Russia made some problems and Iran started to make new demands compared to the previous JCPOA agreement. The whole problem with JCPOA is political and somehow tied to the interests of Russia in Ukraine, and as long as that crisis continues, there's less chance for the deal to be revived.

### What does the US visit to the Gulf tell us given wider regional dynamics?

There's been a lot of shuttle diplomacy in the region recently between Iran and Central Asian countries, Russia and even Iraq. All of this, combined with President Biden's planned visit to the GCC and Israel next month, shows that Iran and the US are on the brink of making a final decision on the JCPOA. They will either revive it or we will start a new formation in the region. Iran today is seeing a new political and security world order taking shape as a result of the Ukraine war.

### What does the US hope to gain?

They might ask Saudi to somehow increase oil production, but it will be more interesting to see what the Saudis and Israel ask for in return and whether it is the same thing – for example, kicking Iran off the table for a long time. Meanwhile, Iran will try to use this momentum to increase its level of strategic partnership with Russia. If Russia needs a regional ally, Iran is not going to make a deal with the US easily. At the same time, the US is not going to make a deal with Iran without reducing Iran's activities in the region. So, the chances for an agreement are lower than before, but the whole issue depends on what Saudi and Israel are going to ask for in return.

### Outlook for Iranian oil continuing to sell into Asia?

The 100 million barrels of floating and onshore storage is a serious headache for the National Iranian Oil Company, especially the gas condensate issue, because we cannot simply switch that production off. If China does not import gas condensates from Iran and exports to Europe are also suspended, there's a very limited market for it worldwide. Venezuelan demand might provide some respite but it's not going to be the final solution. ■

*\*Paraphrased Comments*

Series Supported By:

