



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE
ON THE VISIT OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL TO BAKU

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, paid a working visit to Baku on 30-31 January 2025. The visit took place in the context of Azerbaijan's takeover of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO) for the first half of this year (1 January - 30 June 2025).

The Secretary General was received by and had bilateral talks with: Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and BSEC Chairman-in-Office; Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources and COP29 President; Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy; Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency; Ulvi Mehdiyev, Chairman of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He also had had a working meeting (lunch) with Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary General expressed his highest appreciation and thanks to the Azerbaijani Government for the importance it attaches to the BSEC Organization, conveyed his best wishes for a successful Azerbaijani BSEC CiO and reiterated PERMIS's commitment and readiness to render its whole support to and closely collaborate with the Chairmanship in fulfilling their mandate.

During the meetings, Ambassador Comanescu recalled his participation in the events organized in November 2024 under the Azerbaijani Presidency of UNFCCC COP29 and thanked the Azerbaijani side for extending invitation to BSEC to participate thereon. He also briefed his interlocutors on recent activities and achievements of the Organization, mentioning in this context the adoption of the revised BSEC Economic Agenda and its implementation mechanism, the revitalization of the Project Development Fund (PDF), as well as the enhancement of cooperation with international partner organizations.

The Azerbaijani side highlighted the role of BSEC as a sound platform for further promoting cooperation among its Member States and underlined the necessity to make use of the Organization's potential in order to achieve sustainable development in the region, including in the areas of transport and logistics, energy and tourism. Special emphasis on environmental and climate change-related agenda was made in the context of the current Azerbaijani Presidency in the UNFCCC COP29, and opportunities for joint actions to that end were touched upon. The importance attached to BSEC and its activities by the Republic of Azerbaijan was stressed as was the commitment for an active and result-oriented work during the country's BSEC CiO.

A comprehensive exchange of views also took place on developments and challenges in the BSEC region, with the need being jointly stressed to overcome those challenges and further strengthen the project-oriented dimension of the Organization. Further on it was agreed that during the forthcoming Coordination Meeting to be held on 10 February 2025, the Azerbaijani BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office will present its priorities and the Calendar of Events.

The Secretary General gave an interview to the Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) which is available on:

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/secretary_general_we_are_optimistic_about_azerbaijan_039s_current_chairmanship_of_the_bsec_interview-3399087