

**Dear friends of BSEC,**

As the year 2023 comes to an end, permit me to briefly share with you some major BSEC accomplishments of this year.

After almost three years of interval due to the pandemic, we managed to come back to in-person meetings of BSEC bodies and subsidiary organs, resulting in a more efficient conduct of our work. Similarly, BSEC was represented and actively participated in several important international events, ensuing a higher visibility of the Organization. The reactivation of the BSEC Business Council and of the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF), were among other highlights of this year. Last but not least, the BSEC Council of Ministers adopted the updated BSEC Economic Agenda “Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area”, as a guide to cooperation in the BSEC framework.

**Dear All,**

Every new year is an occasion for new beginnings and a perfect moment to express gratitude to those who’ve played instrumental roles on our journey to success. I therefore use this opportunity to thank our Member States, our Related Bodies, Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, as well as our partner organizations, for their valuable contributions. I would also thank my team, the BSEC PERMIS staff, for their efforts and support.

Together, let’s make 2024 a year when peace is restored to our homes and our region.