



**PRESS RELEASE ON THE  
VISIT OF H.E. STEPAN KUBIV,  
FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TRADE OF UKRAINE  
(BSEC Headquarters, 26 September 2018)**

H.E. Mr. Stepan Kubiv, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, paid a working visit to the PERMIS Headquarters on the side-lines of his bilateral visit to Turkey.

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, welcomed the high guest underlining that his visit is a further proof of the importance the Government of Ukraine, founding Member of BSEC, attaches to the Organization.

H.E. Mr. Kubiv referred to his interesting meetings with the respective Turkish authorities and the satisfactory development of the overall economic cooperation between the two States; he further stressed that regional cooperation is one of the priorities of Ukraine and, in this respect, the BSEC Organization assumes a particular role, especially under the present circumstances when the wider Black Sea area serves as the natural bridge between three continents. The First Vice Prime Minister also referred to the latest economic developments in Ukraine, stressing that despite the well-known extraordinary situation prevailing today, the efforts of the Ukrainian people to achieve faster economic growth are bearing tangible positive results.

Ambassador Christides seized the opportunity to inform his high interlocutor on the latest activities of the BSEC Organization, especially in the sectors of Transports, Energy and Tourism, and acquainted him with the most important plans for the near future. Ambassador Christides repeated his appeal that BSEC Members make better use of the knowledge and long experience that the Organization has accumulated during its 26 years of existence, becoming not only a valuable vehicle for regional cooperation, but also an appreciated first level confidence - building mechanism.