



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

(Baku, 25 October 2018)

The Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States was held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25 October 2018. It was preceded, on 24 October 2018, by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport.

Representatives from the BSEC Member States, BSEC Related Bodies, BSEC Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and international organizations attended the meeting.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ramin GULUZADE, Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Opening statements were delivered by Minister GULUZADE and BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES.

In his opening statement Secretary General CHRISTIDES emphasized that the slogan of the Azerbaijani BSEC Chairmanship-in-office, “*Boosting Trade through Connectivity*,” corresponds exactly to the urgent needs of the BSEC Member States as, after all, BSEC is a regional organization promoting the economic cooperation among its Member States, yet no one can speak about “*economic cooperation*” without establishing connectivity between the Member States, so transport is, indeed, a very crucial sector of cooperation.

In what concerns facilitation of transports and trade, the Secretary General stressed that the BSEC projects on the *Black Sea Ring Highway* and the *Motorways of the Sea* should be considered as the BSEC contribution to other greater projects covering the Eurasian region, including the “modern” Silk Road.

At same time, Ambassador CHRISTIDES drew attention to the *existing physical and non-physical barriers* which still threaten trade and transports, the movement of people, goods and services in the BSEC Region.

Referring to the existing long “*To Do List*”, that concerns the activities of the BSEC organs on trade and transport facilitation, the Secretary General assured participants that PERMIS will do its utmost to support the relevant efforts of the Member States.

The Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States delivered their statements on the current state of the BSEC transport cooperation and on the efforts required for its further improvement. Following the discussion, they adopted the Report of the Meeting.