PRESS RELEASE ON THE WORKING VISIT OF 
THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL TO SOFIA 

(Sofia, 14-15 November 2018)

In view of the forthcoming Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office (01.01.2019 to 
30.06.2019), the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, paid 
a working visit to Sofia, on 14 - 15 November 2018.

During his stay in Sofia Ambassador Christides was received by the Deputy Prime 
Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, H.E. Mrs. Ekaterina Zaharieva who 
outlined in broad terms the main priorities that Sofia wishes to adopt and promote during 
its chairmanship term. Minister Zaharieva underlined that Bulgaria attaches great 
importance in holding few, yet very well prepared meetings and events during the first 
semester of 2019; she also committed herself to fully support the initiative of the BSEC 
PERMIS for co-organizing with the Romanian Presidency of the European Council and the 
relevant EU authorities a high-level event in Brussels for the presentation of BSEC as a 
trustworthy and effective partner in the wider Black Sea region.

Minister Zaharieva repeated that Bulgaria appreciates the significant role the BSEC 
Organization plays in the geostrategic region of the Black Sea and reiterated her 
Government’s desire to further enhance this role, so as to render the Organization more 
result-oriented and effective.

The Secretary General also had a working lunch with the Deputy Minister of Foreign 
Affairs of Bulgaria, H.E. Mrs. Emilia Kraleva, during which the two sides expanded their 
deliberations on the forthcoming Bulgarian Chairmanship and its best preparation.

Ambassador-at-large Mr. Ivan PETKOV and the responsible Head of Department of the 
Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Julia TZEROVA, took also part in the above 
two meetings.