



**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 Krалеva, 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.