



PRESS RELEASE ON
81st SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)
(Geneva, 19-20 February 2019)

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated at the 81st Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE, which was held on 19-20 February 2019 at the “Palais des Nations” in Geneva with the attendance of a great number of Ministers and heads of relevant International Organizations.

The Secretary General particularly followed the High-Level Policy Segment meeting on the Automation in Transport, delivering a statement during the second Session, concerning the Challenges and synergies in advancing automation for all modes of transport.

During his intervention the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General pointed out that the issue of digitalization and automation of transport and trade facilitation procedures are important items on the agenda of several BSEC organs. Addressing the problem of delays of commercial vehicles at some Border Crossing Points in the BSEC region, Ambassador CHRISTIDES concluded that there is no alternative to the digitalization and automation of procedures for international trans-border trade and transport.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Ambassador CHRISTIDES met and discussed various issues with many national delegations of BSEC Member States, representatives from PABSEC, IRU, UIC, OTIF and BSEC-URTA, as well as with many other participating stakeholders.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General met with the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Volodymyr OMELYN. The Sides exchanged information and views on the present and future BSEC transport cooperation. They also discussed projects that can be further developed along the Black Sea Ring Highway and actions needed for their implementation.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES had a scheduled meeting with the ITF (OECD) Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Young Tae KIM and Mrs. Mary CRASS, Head of Institutional Relations and ITF Summit, in order to exchange views and discuss how to further enhance cooperation and synergies among the two organizations.

The Secretary General met also with Mrs. Susanna ZAMMATARO, Director General of the International Road Federation (IRF) in Geneva; the two sides discussed the future cooperation relationship between BSEC and IRF, based on their bilateral MOU signed in 2006.