



**PRESS RELEASE ON  
BUDAPEST PROCESS 6TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
(Istanbul, 20 February 2019)**

Upon the invitation of the organizers, Ambassador Selim Yenel, BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General, participated in the Budapest Process 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, which was held on 20 February 2019, in Istanbul. He also attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Preparatory Meeting held the previous day.

The aim of the Conference was two-fold. Firstly, to approve commitments on migration and secondly, to accept an action plan to implement these commitments.

The two global compacts, the “Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” and the “Global compact on refugees” which stemmed from the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016, were points of disagreement. Another discussion issue was the principle of non-refoulement and the rights of migrants in accordance with international law.

Although the two draft documents were not legally binding, it was still not possible to have all participating states approve them.

On the second day the Ministerial Session took place. The Turkish Minister of Interior Suleyman Soylu and the Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto were the co-hosts. The Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, sent a video message to the Conference, expressing how the management of migration was now the top priority.

During the two day event it was possible to explain the role of BSEC to many of the participants attending the Conference.