



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE VISIT OF H.E. MR. ALEXANDER PANKIN,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(Istanbul, 25 February 2019)**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Alexander PANKIN and his Delegation visited the BSEC Headquarters on 25 February 2019. They were welcomed by the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General and his Deputies.

A broad range of issues relating to the activities of BSEC and to the enhancement of its efficiency was discussed. Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed Minister PANKIN on the organization by PERMIS of many new initiatives/projects in various sectors by attracting new sources of funding, as well as on its participation in several upcoming international fora, aiming to increase the visibility of the BSEC Organization. Minister PANKIN noted that securing concrete deliverables required more target-based approach in the short to medium term planning of the BSEC activities and encouraged PERMIS to focus its efforts on the promotion of fewer, yet emblematic for the Organization, objectives.

Other issues, such as cooperation of BSEC with other international organizations, the possibilities for creating greater thematic focus at the BSEC high level (Ministerial) meetings and the activity of the *Black Sea Project Promotion Facility* were also discussed.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General thanked Minister PANKIN for the visit and expressed his belief that the active interest and engagement of the BSEC Member States in the efforts to enhance and streamline the activities of the Organization and of its International Secretariat are most welcome and useful, as they generate a positive spirit of greater involvement of the Member States in supporting the PERMIS for the realization of BSEC aims and objectives.