



**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER SEMINAR ON BLUE ECONOMY - TOWARDS A  
COMMON MARITIME AGENDA FOR THE BLACK SEA**

*(Istanbul, 19 March 2019)*

A *Regional Stakeholder Seminar on Blue Economy* titled *"Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea"* organized by the European Commission's *"Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea"* with the support of the BSEC PERMIS took place in Istanbul, on 19 March 2019.

The general aim of the seminar was to build upon the Burgas Ministerial Declaration (2018), where the participating countries, all Members of BSEC, committed to work on a structured cooperation framework on maritime affairs. The purpose of the seminar was to gather views from the relevant stakeholders on the thematic content of the Common Maritime Agenda.

Almost 200 participants from the public and private sectors took active part in the many structured workshops that took place during the day, thus demonstrating the keen interest of all to contribute to the beneficial objectives of this important initiative. After the intense deliberations many useful conclusions were elaborated which will serve as a springboard for the promotion of the Common Maritime Agenda and the overall Blue Economy in the wider Black Sea region.

The discussions were organized around 6 topics (Research and Innovation; Maritime connectivity; Coastal and Maritime Tourism, Healthy Marine Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sustainability and Blue careers and skills) and run in 6 parallel sessions.

Thus the seminar offered an interactive platform for discussion and debate and gave many opportunities for networking between experts, scientists, entrepreneurs and organizations active in the region.

Opening addresses were delivered by EU dignitaries and other officials from various international and regional institutions, as well as by the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador M.B. CHRISTIDES and by Ms. Olivia TODEREAN, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

In his intervention, Ambassador CHRISTIDES underlined the fact that the working relations between the BSEC Organization and the European Union have entered into a new, more dynamic phase, comprising concrete projects and initiatives like the launching of the *"Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea"* and the development of the *"Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea basin"* (SRIA). The *"Blue Growth"* Initiative provides the intellectual and political framework for stimulating exchanges between more stakeholders, focusing on various diverse components and, at the same time, organizing them all into a coherent and dynamic package for the promotion of sustainable development in the wider Black Sea region.