

**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARIAT IN THE  
EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2019  
(LISBON, 16-17 MAY 2019)**

The BSEC PERMIS, represented by its Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. Christides and the responsible Executive Manager Ms. Rositsa Stoeva, took active part in the “*European Maritime Day 2019*” (EMD), held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 16-17 May 2019. The event was co-organized by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission and the city of Lisbon.

The “*European Maritime Day*” is the annual two-day event during which Europe’s maritime community meets to network, discuss and forge joint action in areas of common interest. It targets maritime professionals, entrepreneurs and ocean leaders from businesses, governments, public institutions, NGOs and academia. This year’s edition was focused on blue entrepreneurship, research, innovation and investment to boost sustainable technologies and emerging value chains in the wider ocean economy. The event was attended by 1468 participants from all sea basins, including from the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine). The edition of next year 2020 will be held in Cork, Ireland.

The ceremonial opening session was honored by the participation of several high-level officials, among them Mr. Karmenu VELLA, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Mrs. Ana VITORINO, Minister of Sea of the Republic of Portugal; Mr. Fernando MEDINA, President of the Municipality of Lisbon; Mrs. Gesine MEISSNER and Mr. Ricardo SANTOS, Members of the European Parliament dealing with the Intergroup on Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas, and others.

The BSEC PERMIS was actively involved in the organization of two Workshops: “Cross-basin research and innovation collaboration” and “Improving Access to Finance for Blue SMEs”.

Apart from the above and for the first time, BSEC PERMIS participated with its own stand (102 stands in general), through which BSEC brochures, materials, booklets, newsletters, as well as some documentation from BSEC Related Bodies (*International Center for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) and the *Black Sea Trade and Development Bank* (BSTDB) were offered to the general public. Ms. Evgenia Logiotatou, BSEC PERMIS Secretary, was welcoming the numerous visitors to the stand, answering also to their many questions.

The updated information related to all the event’s activities can be found on its official website - <https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en>