



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 40th MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Sofia, 28 June 2019)**

The 40th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Sofia, on 28 June 2019. H.E Ms. Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria chaired the Meeting.

In addition to Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners also participated at the Council Meeting.

The Ministers acknowledged the progress achieved during the outgoing year and highlighted the importance of further enhancing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area.

The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES expressed his thankfulness for the continued commitment of the Member States to the objectives of the Organization.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues, including the acknowledgement of the application of the Republic of North Macedonia for Membership to BSEC, renewal of the Observer status of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Belarus, and of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution ; the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF), and of the International Network for SMEs (INSME); on the state of cooperation in the BSEC areas of cooperation; on the appointment of Country-Coordinators to BSEC Working Groups; on the activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies; and on the appointment of Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO (Ukraine) as Project Coordinator, Ms. Sandra VUJINOVIĆ (Republic of Serbia) as Executive Manager, extension of the term-in-office of Mr. Kanan MURTUZOV as Executive Manager (Republic of Azerbaijan), and renewal of the term-in-office of Ms. Rositsa STOEVA (Republic of Bulgaria) as Executive Manager.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony took place whereby the Republic of Bulgaria handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to the Hellenic Republic. The Hellenic Republic will assume the duties of BSEC Chairmanship for a period of six months, from 1 July to 31 December 2019.

On the sidelines of the Council Meeting, the Heads of Delegations held important bilateral talks.