



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 41st MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Athens, 13 December 2019)**

The 41st Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Athens, on 13 December 2019. H.E. Mr. Nikos DENDIAS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic 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 Hellenic Chairmanship and underlined once again the importance of developing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area further.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues, referring to (a) the acknowledgement of the renewal of the Observer status of the Republic of Croatia, the Slovak Republic, the State of Israel and the United States of America; (b) the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Europe (CPMR), the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA) and of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); (c) the granting of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the period of two years as of January 1, 2020; (d) the state of cooperation in various sectoral areas; to the appointment of Country-Coordinators to BSEC Working Groups; the activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies and to the appointment of Ambassador Mrs. Ebru BARUTÇU GÖKDENİZLER (Republic of Turkey) as the First Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS.

The meeting was concluded with the ceremonial transfer of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office to Romania, who will assume the relevant duties for a period of six months, from 1 January to 30 June 2020.