



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE WORKING VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND ON CONSULTATIONS WITH BSEC OBSERVERS
AND SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS**

With the aim to further enhance the working relationship of BSEC PERMIS with third States, many of which enjoy the status of *Observer* or *Sectoral Dialogue Partner* in the BSEC Organization, the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, accompanied by the responsible Executive Manager Mr. Alexei NISTREAN, visited Ankara on 20-23 January 2020 where they held a series of meetings with the Ambassadors or Heads of Mission of the following States: Egypt, Israel, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Korea, Japan, Romania, the Netherlands and Iran. They also met with the Head of the EU Delegation in Turkey.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES and Mr. NISTREAN informed their distinguished interlocutors on the recent activities of the BSEC Organization and on the priorities of the Romanian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office (first semester of 2020); the PERMIS Secretary General suggested a greater involvement from the side of the Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the activities of the Organization and informed on the ongoing and future projects and initiatives to be implemented in the BSEC region. All meetings were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

In his meeting with the Ambassador of North Macedonia to Turkey, Ambassador CHRISTIDES inquired on the proceedings of the internal Parliamentary procedure for the finalization of the accession of North Macedonia to the BSEC Organization, as the latter's 13th Member State. Both sides expressed the hope that this process will be completed during the first semester of 2020.

The PERMIS Delegation also paid a visit to the headquarters of RTUK (*Turkish Radio and Television Supreme Council*) and held fruitful discussions with the newly appointed BRAF (*Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum*) Secretary General, Member of the above Council, Mr. Taha Yücel and the Vice President of the same Council, Mr. İbrahim Uslu.

Finally, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, accompanied by the First Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Mrs. Ebru BARUTCU GOKDENIZLER, was received on 21 January 2020 by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Ambassador Faruk KAYMAKCI, in the presence of Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ambassador Ömer GÜCÜK, Deputy Director General,



Special Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Çağlar Fahri ÇAKIRALP, and Head of Department at the Directorate General of Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ms. Şule GÜREL.

The two sides exchanged views and discussed various important issues concerning the smooth functioning of the BSEC Organization and of its Secretariat.