



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE WORKING VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD BANK

Upon their initiative representatives from the World Bank Mrs. Eolina MILOVA, Senior Environmental Specialist, Bulgarian Country Office and Mrs. Paola AGOSTINI, Lead National Resources Management Specialist, Europe and Central Asia, Washington Office, paid a working visit to the BSEC PERMIS Headquarters in Istanbul on 10 February 2020.

Following up on the new priorities that the World Bank has identified jointly with the European Commission for the Black Sea basin, the Bank is developing a long-term Black Sea Program, designed as a multi-sectoral analytical and investment program with the objective of assisting countries to sustainably develop their maritime economies and address the challenges facing the basin.

In the framework of the above efforts, the possibilities of establishing close cooperation in what concerns the promotion of various maritime and blue economy issues, especially the environmental pollution, were thoroughly discussed by the World Bank representatives and the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, together with the First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Ebru BARUTCU GÖKDENİZLER and the responsible PERMIS Executive Manager Mrs. Rositsa STOEVA.

At the end of their lengthy consultations and exchange of views the two sides agreed that the World Bank, following the updated information received during today's meeting, will further consider the possibilities of actively involving the BSEC PERMIS in the context of their above-described initiatives, while PERMIS will seek the support and advice of the World Bank for some of its forthcoming projects especially in pollution and marine litter, as soon as these projects have attained a satisfactory level of maturity.

Both sides agreed that there is ample ground for future cooperation in the above areas of common interest and that they will jointly pursue this aim in a coordinated manner.