



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT**  
**OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**  
(24 November 2020)

A Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States was held online on 24 November 2020. It was preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, which was also held online on 23 November 2020.

Representatives from the BSEC Member States, BSEC Related Bodies, BSEC Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and international organizations participated in the Meeting.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Lucian Nicolae BODE, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Communications of Romania. Opening Statements were delivered by Minister BODE, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS and by H.E. Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN, European Commissioner for Transport.

In his opening statement, Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES emphasized that the the region covered by the territories of BSEC Member States is “of **paramount geostrategic importance**, as it straddles three continents. **Transport** is a sector where much has still to be done, yet, not by each Member State alone, but in a **coordinated** – and, thus more **effective** – way, especially during the Covid-19 outbreak. This coordination is necessary among BSEC Members, but also with other States and Institutions, like the EU and TRACECA, (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) which are implementing similar projects in the neighbourhood and in the BSEC region”.

Referring to the two “pet projects” of the Organization, namely *the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH)* and *the Motorways of the Sea (MoS)*, Ambassador CHRISTIDES stressed the “need for the motivated involvement of our Member States and their **focused** and **effective presence** during the ongoing efforts for their implementation”. He recalled the recent initiatives of the BSEC PERMIS, aimed at revitalizing the above projects, in particular through the financial possibilities offered by the *Eastern Partnership* (EaP) and by initiating some sort of coordination with the similar efforts of the European Union.

The Heads of Delegation expressed their gratitude to the Government of Romania for its contribution to the promotion of Transport and Connectivity in the BSEC Region, as well as for the excellent organization of the meeting.