



**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE 42<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
(27 November 2020)**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was hosted by the Romanian Chairmanship in Office online, on 27 November 2020. H.E. Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania chaired the Meeting. This was the first time ever that the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held in a virtual format.

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 Romanian Chairmanship which has lasted twelve months instead of six, as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic. They expressed their gratitude to Romania for their efforts in carrying out their responsibilities under these extraordinary circumstances which has underlined, once again, the importance of developing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area even further. The Ministers also extended a warm welcome to the newest Member State of the Organization, the Republic of North Macedonia, who attended the Council Meeting for the first time.

The Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides gave an overview of the activities and accomplishments of BSEC during the extremely challenging year of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues, referring to (a) organizational issues (b) financial issues including the Budget for 2021 (c) acknowledgement of the renewal of the Observer status of the Republic of Austria, Arab Republic of Egypt, Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Poland, (d) the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status of Japan, Republic of Korea, Montenegro, Republic of Slovenia, Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs), Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS), Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) (e) the state of cooperation in various sectoral areas; the appointment of Country-Coordinators to BSEC Working Groups; the activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies and the Appointments to various positions including Deputy Secretary General of PERMIS.



The meeting was concluded with the ceremonial transfer of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office to the Republic of Albania, who will assume the Secretariat Assisted Chairmanship for a period of six months, from 1 January to 30 June 2021.