



**PRESS RELEASE ON THE
BSEC PERMIS CONSULTATION WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION (IGC) TRACECA**

(19 February 2021, Online)

Upon the initiative of the BSEC PERMIS, its Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES held today 19 February 2021 informal online consultations with Mr. Asset ASSAVBAYEV, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the *Intergovernmental Commission* (IGC) TRACECA, with the aim to further coordinate efforts and cooperation between the two Secretariats within the *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU), signed by the two sides in 2007. The responsible experts of both entities participated in the event.

Both sides exchanged information regarding their respective activities, priorities and plans for the immediate future, focusing mainly on issues related to the digitalization of transport documents (e-Permit, e-TIR, e-CMR, e-Visa for professional drivers), on the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, on border-crossing facilitation and on other subjects of mutual interest.

They, further, agreed that there are many issues and challenges of common interest in the vital sector of Transports, where possible joint efforts of BSEC and TRACECA could be of paramount significance for decisively facilitating the transport of goods in the wider region.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES and Mr. ASSAVBAYEV underlined their readiness to maintain further working contacts and agreed on the preparation of a relevant Roadmap, in order to delineate the practical parameters and frame for the concrete continuation of the cooperation among the two Secretariats.