



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 7th DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM
(6-9 APRIL 2022)**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 7th Delphi Economic Forum which took place on 6-9 April 2022.

The Forum had a very comprehensive agenda both in terms of topics and in geographical terms and benefited of the presence as speakers/panelists of an impressive number of participants, with many current and former heads of state/ government, ministers, heads of international organizations, CEOs and other senior representatives of business community, academics, NGOs etc.

Almost all participants in the Forum shared concerns on the war in Ukraine and the need for a rapid solution to the conflict in accordance with international law. They also referred to the negative impact of the crisis including serious disturbances in flows of trade and transport, and price increases of goods and services.

The Secretary General Ambassador Comanescu participated as panelist in the panel titled "Assessing the effects of the Ukraine crisis in South East Europe", alongside the National Security Adviser of the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic and two former Greek and Serbian ministers. He highlighted the fact that seven of the BSEC Member States are part of South East Europe (SEE) and that therefore the current situation in the BSEC area raises serious concerns for the entire SEE. Reiterating the position already known of BSEC PERMIS on the war in Ukraine, he stressed once again the need of an urgent ending of the conflict and of a solution there of in full accordance with the international law.

The need of helping countries in the Western Balkans to speed up their drive towards EU integration was highlighted by all panelists.

On the sidelines of the Forum Ambassador Comanescu held a meeting with H.E. Nicolas Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. They had a fruitful exchange of views on the current situation in the Black Sea area and on the possible actions and measures to be taken so that the region turns back to normal, including BSEC activities. Ambassador Comanescu used this opportunity to renew, on behalf of the entire PERMIS, the particular appreciation and thanks for the substantive contribution and active support of the Hellenic Republic to BSEC.