



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOFIA**

Upon the invitation by the Bulgarian Presidency of the Central European Initiative (CEI), the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI Member States and the subsequent Business Forum, which took place in Sofia, on 7 November 2022. High representatives of several regional organizations, including BSEC, participated in the meeting as “Special Guests” of the Presidency.

In this address to the participants, while thanking the Bulgarian Presidency for inviting BSEC to the CEI Ministerial Meeting, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu stressed that the fruitful cooperation and exchange of experience between BSEC and CEI during the years offer a solid basis for further enhancing this cooperation.

At the Economic Forum, which was dedicated to the economic recovery of the region and the role of small and medium-sized enterprises therein, the Secretary General described SMEs as one of BSEC’s top priorities and one of the main activities the organization carries out in this area.

On the next day (8 November 2022), Ambassador Lazar Comanescu met with H.E. Mr. Nikolay Milkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. The meeting was mainly dedicated to an exchange of views on the current developments in the Black Sea area and on the BSEC role in this context.