

## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## **Permanent International Secretariat**

## PRESS RELEASE ON THE $\mathbf{X}^{\text{th}}$ INTERNATIONAL CULTURES FORUM

BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis participated to the X<sup>th</sup> International Cultures Forum held in St. Petersburg on 11-14 September 2024. The main topic of the Forum was "The 21st Century Culture: Sovereign or Globalism?".

Addressing the Heads of Delegations segment of the Forum, Ambassador Rallis highlighted BSEC's role in promoting regional economic and cultural cooperation, with focus on the unique cultural richness of the BSEC countries and the vast potential for further expanding this cooperation. A particular attention, he stressed in this context, should be given to protecting cultural heritage, preventing any illicit trafficking and protecting cultural property. He also stressed that strong economic and cultural cooperation contributes to better mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and there through to stability and security.