



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
ITF 2025 ANNUAL SUMMIT

Upon invitation by the Presidency of Chile at the International Transport Forum (ITF), BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, participated in the ITF Annual Summit, held in Leipzig on 21 – 23 May 2025.

The generic topic of the Summit was *Transport Resilience to Global Shocks* and the debates were concentrated on how to ensure the continuity of transport systems amidst disruptions such as natural disasters, pandemics, cyber-attacks, and geopolitical crises. The main discussions focused on policies for adapting to, mitigating and recovering from these shocks, with an emphasis on transforming systems into more sustainable and resilient networks.

Addressing the Open Ministerial Session, the Secretary General highlighted the importance and the need by public national or international authorities and institutions to closely interact with and involve the business communities, private actors and their associations in shaping and implementing policies, decisions and programs/projects. In this context, he noted that fruitful cooperation of BSEC with partner organizations, such as IRU, BSEC-URTA and their member associations are the most convincing evidence of how important and beneficial such an approach is.

Ambassador Comanescu also participated in a ministerial side event organized by the World Bank, on the Middle Corridor, where the latest developments and possible tools to improve the Corridor's efficiency were discussed, including digitalization framework. In his remarks, the Secretary General stressed the key role of the Black Sea in realizing the benefits expected from the development of the Middle Corridor for Europe-Asia connectivity.

On the margins of the Summit, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General exchanged bilaterally with: Young Tae Kim, ITF Secretary General; Tatiana Molcean, UNECE Executive Secretary; Radu Dinescu and Umberto de Pretto, President, respectively Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU); Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of TRACECA; Achraf Bouali, Head of OECD Istanbul Centre; Gonzalo Alcaraz, Acting Director General of the International Road Federation (IRF), and Suzanna Zammataro, Chief Executive Officer at the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC). Ways for further enhancing BSEC cooperation with the respective Organizations were discussed.