



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**PRESS RELEASE  
ON THE PARTICIPATION  
IN THE 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF BRAF AND WORKSHOP ON HATE SPEECH  
AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Upon the invitation of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAF), First Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Merve Kavakcı and Executive Manager, Mr. Alexei Nistrean, participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of BRAF and the Workshop on Hate Speech and Freedom of Information held in Vlora (Albania) on 16-18 September 2025.

Both events were organized by the BRAF Secretariat in close cooperation and under the auspices of Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) of the Republic of Albania.

Representatives of nine BSEC Member States attended the annual meeting and presented country reports on the activities of their national broadcasting regulatory authorities.

In her statement, Ambassador Dr. Kavakcı gave a brief overview of the activities of BSEC during the current period, highlighted the role of BRAF in promoting the objectives of BSEC Organization by fostering the exchange of information and experience in the broadcasting sector of the Black Sea region and expressed the wish to continue the cooperation between BRAF and BSEC, including the interaction between BSEC Secretariat and the Secretariat of BRAF.

During the Workshop on Hate Speech and Freedom of Information on Audiovisual Media , the participants discussed the challenges posed by hate statements on audio and visual media and the responses from the national regulatory authorities to ensure the freedom of information while safeguarding the audience from excessive hatred content.

The Republic of Bulgaria was nominated as the next Presidency of BRAF for 2025-2026.