



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE
ON THE PARTICIPATION OF BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL IN
THE 14th ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM ON THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 14th Annual Advisory Forum on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, held in Cappadocia, Türkiye, on 22-24 October 2025.

Organized by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) in collaboration with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency, and with the support of the local authorities of the Cappadocia region, the event focused on the theme “Cultural Routes and Landscapes: Advancing Heritage Protection through Cultural and Sustainable Tourism.”

The Forum underscored the crucial role of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in safeguarding cultural heritage through sustainable tourism practices. Through a rich program of thematic sessions and panel discussions, the event provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and promoting best practices among representatives of international organizations, cultural networks, and public authorities.

In his remarks during the panel “Beyond the Destination: Reimagining Cultural Tourism through Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe,” Ambassador Comanescu highlighted the ongoing efforts of BSEC PERMIS to foster cooperation in the fields of culture and tourism and to support the development of cross-border cultural initiatives that reflect the Black Sea region’s richness and diversity. He further emphasized the importance of dialogue, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation in addressing current challenges and advancing mutual understanding among peoples.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Ambassador Comanescu exchanged briefly with Mr. Rui Gomes, Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation between BSEC and the EPA in promoting cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, and intercultural understanding across the region.