



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

---

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF**  
**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CMFA)**

The Fifty-first Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA) of the BSEC Member States was held online on 19 December 2025.

Opening addresses were delivered by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Ms. Elena Shekerletova on behalf of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, and by BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu.

In her address H.E. Shekerletova while stressing the importance of the BSEC Organization and cooperation among its Member States, elaborated on the priority given by the Bulgarian Chairmanship of BSEC to areas such as environmental protection and sustainable management of marine resources, culture, tourism, regional sustainability, as well as cooperation with EU and other Organizations.

In his intervention, Ambassador Comanescu presented a brief overview of the activities of the Organization during the second semester of 2025, highlighting in this context, steps towards the implementation of the new BSEC Economic Agenda. He also referred to other important achievements and developments under the Bulgarian Chairmanship of BSEC, including the enhancement of BSEC's project-oriented dimension and interaction with other regional/international organizations and partners.

The Council approved the granting/renewal of the Observer/Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status to the following international organizations: UN Tourism, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, SMEs Network (INSME), Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Europe (CPMR), and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA).

The Council also approved the BSEC budget for year 2026 as well as other decisions related to the internal functioning of the Organization.

The Meeting was concluded with the transfer of the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to Georgia for the period of 1 January – 30 June 2026.