



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE
THE 13th GLOBAL BAKU FORUM
“BRIDGING DIVIDES IN A WORLD IN TRANSITION”**

Upon invitation by the President and Secretary General of the Global Baku Forum, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 13th edition of the Forum which took place on 12-14 March 2026.

Like in its previous editions, the event brought together current and former heads of state/government, ministers, heads and other high representatives of international organizations, representatives of academia, business communities and NGOs from all over the world.

The opening ceremony of the Forum took in the presence of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev who addressed the participants.

The generic topic of this year's edition of the Forum was “Bridging Divides in a World in Transition”, with debates organized in 12 successive thematic panels covering issues such as global security and balance of power, the state of multilateralism and global cooperation, economic growth, energy dependency and clean-energy infrastructure, connectivity/digital connectivity, technological access, information control, critical supply routes, etc.

Ambassador Comanescu was a panelist in the Panel “Middle Corridor and Eurasian Connection Gateway”. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of a secure, sustainable and climate resilient connectivity and stressed in this context, the need of coordination and correlation among regional organizations to accelerate sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects. He further underlined the importance of the Black Sea region as a key connectivity hub not only for Europe but also globally, and said that, big connectivity initiatives/projects such as Middle Corridor can't bypass the region. Ambassador Comanescu also highlighted that it is extremely important, in terms of efficiency, to build upon the initiatives already developed locally and/or regionally, and referred to the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) and the Black Sea Motorways of the Seas (BS-MoS) designed exactly to facilitate transport and expedite trade through the wider BSEC region.