



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
**ITF 2026 ANNUAL SUMMIT**

Upon invitation by the President of the International Transport Forum (ITF), the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the ITF Annual Summit held in Leipzig (Germany) on 6-8 May 2026.

The generic topic of the Summit was *Funding Resilient Transport* with deliberations organized, as in preceding years, in a series of ministerial plenary sessions and ministerial thematic roundtables and panels with focus on how to mobilize investments and financing mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of transport systems.

Addressing the Open Ministerial Session, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General underlined the particular importance the BSEC Organization attaches to the development of regional cooperation in the field of transport. Referring in this context to the already existing fruitful collaboration of BSEC with the International Transport Forum, Ambassador Comanescu reiterated BSEC's commitment to continue to work with other international and regional organizations towards enhancing the role of the Black Sea region as a connectivity hub between Europe and Asia, advancing sustainable solutions and unlocking new opportunities for connectivity and trade.

Ambassador Comanescu also addressed the Ministerial Roundtable on "*Strategic investment in supply chains: strengthening alternative routes and corridors*". He highlighted, among others, the importance of BSEC projects and initiatives – the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Motorways of the Sea and the BSEC Permit System – in developing linkage routes in the Euro-Asian space and promoting safe, efficient, and interconnected land and maritime routes across the wider BSEC region.

On the margins of the Summit Ambassador Comanescu had bilateral exchanges with other high-level participants among which the ITF Secretary General; the President and the Secretary General of IRU; the Secretary General of TRACECA; the Director General for transport of the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and the Executive Vice President at DEKRA. Ways for enhancing BSEC cooperation with the respective Organizations were discussed.

The next ITF Annual Summit will take place in Leipzig on 12-14 May 2027.