



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE WORKING VISIT OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
TO ATHENS**

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu paid a visit to Athens on 6-8 July 2026 within the framework of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC (1 July - 31 December 2026). He was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis and Legal Advisor Ms. Nino Kajaia.

Ambassador Comanescu had consultations with: H.E. George Gerapetritis, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Haris Theocharis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and his team in charge with BSEC; Ms. Sofia Voultepsi, Head of the Hellenic Delegation to PABSEC and Vice-President of PABSEC. He also participated in the high-level Conference on “Enhancing Connectivity in the wider Black Sea region – Priorities of the Greek Chairmanship at the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation”, organized by ICBSS.

The Secretary General and his interlocutors exchanged views on the current developments in the Black Sea region and within BSEC, with particular focus on the program of work, objectives and activities of the Organization under the Hellenic Chairmanship. Both sides reiterated their commitment to work closely towards enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening the Organization as an effective platform for dialogue and economic collaboration.

The importance of making BSEC more efficient, results-oriented and responsive to the evolving challenges facing the Black Sea region was highlighted in this framework as was the fact that despite the difficult geopolitical environment, the Organization continues to provide a unique framework for maintaining dialogue and advancing practical cooperation among its Member States. Greece reiterated its readiness to contribute actively to initiatives that foster sustainable economic development, connectivity, trade, and people-to-people contacts across the Black Sea region. In this context, the cooperation in the areas of transport, energy and digital infrastructure has been underlined as these areas remain fundamental for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Ways to further strengthen BSEC’s project-oriented dimension, increase the visibility of the Organization and the efficiency of its institutions were also discussed. The value of strengthening cooperation with international partners and promoting synergies with regional and international organizations was highlighted as well.

Ambassador Comanescu assured the Hellenic Chairmanship of his personal commitment and of the whole PERMIS to work intensively towards a successful Hellenic Chairmanship. In its turn the Chairmanship also expressed its confidence that, through collective commitment together with the Member States, pragmatic dialogue and concrete action, BSEC will continue to reinforce its role as an important regional organization contributing to stability, prosperity and mutually beneficial cooperation across the Black Sea region.