



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE PARTICIPATION
IN THE 22nd INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM CONFERENCE**

The 22nd International Entrepreneurship Forum Conference, hosted by Özyeğin University under the theme “Entrepreneurship, Values and Wellbeing in the Age of AI” took place in Istanbul, on 14 September 2026. The Central theme of the discussions and presentations was the growing role of the use of AI in the running of SMEs.

BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, represented BSEC PERMIS at the event and in his address he highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence to expand entrepreneurial opportunities, improve productivity and support SMEs and start-ups. He emphasized that technological progress should contribute to human well-being and that its benefits should be widely accessible. He also informed the participants on BSEC’s priorities concerning the sustainable development of SMEs, digital transformation and education. Referring to the BSEC Economic Agenda and relevant areas of sectoral cooperation, he stressed the need to develop digital skills, strengthen innovation networks, and ensure that technology, entrepreneurship and education policies advance together.