ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE
ON BSEC PERMIS PARTICIPATION
IN THE COP31 ANTALYA 2026 UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

The COP31 Antalya 2026 UN Climate Summit was hosted by the Republic of Türkiye in Antalya on 9-20 November 2026.

Upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the World Leaders Summit on Climate Change "Towards a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future", as well as in the side event "From National to Regional Action: Advancing Climate Adaptation in the Wider Black Sea Region", co-organized by BSEC PERMIS together with the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, BSTDB and ICBSS, on 12 November, in the Bulgarian Pavilion. Ambassador Comanescu was accompanied in COP31 by Executive Manager Ambassador Venera Domi.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Comanescu stressed that severe transboundary climate threats in the wider Black Sea basin require coordinated regional action. Referring to the "First Implementation Report of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy", he celebrated the preparation of this landmark report that highlights the progress of our region in the climate change adaptation, noted that gaps in technical capacity, data sharing, and unified monitoring still hinder execution. He concluded by calling for a regional adaptation platform and stronger partnerships with institutions like the BSTDB to unlock bankable green financing.

On 10, 17 and 18 November, BSEC PERMIS co-organized a series of other side-events namely:

- "*Mobilizing Finance for Country-Led Climate Action*". The side-event focused on the assistance towards nations aimed at turning their own climate commitments into investable, bankable projects rather than relying on one-size-fits-all external plans.

- "*From National to Regional Action: Advancing Climate Adaptation in the Wider Black Sea Region*". Moderated by Ambassador Domi, showcased the interactions between regional cooperation bodies in Danube River, Caspian, Mediterranean and Black Seas and focused on the initiatives on financing transboundary climate change adaptation that provides the frameworks for creating bankable projects that attract both public and private funding and promote trade and development.

- "*From Rivers to the Sea: Addressing Riverine and Marine Litter for Climate Resilience*", where BSEC PERMIS joined the organization of the side-event of the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Black Sea Commission, at their pavilion. The event explored how cross-border cooperation across the Danube, Black Sea, and Mediterranean regions can combat riverine and marine litter to boost climate resilience.

- "*From Cooperation to Investments: Advancing Climate Adaptation in the Wider Black Sea Region*". The event was moderated by Amb. Venera Domi, and co-organized together with BSTDB and ICBSS, at the Turkish Pavilion. With the participation of officials from Greece, and Bulgaria alongside experts from BSTDB, UNOPS, UNDP, and the Black Sea Commission, the event focused on transitioning Black Sea climate adaptation policies into bankable investments and presented the first implementation report of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.