



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE BSEC ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE 2022 ITF ANNUAL SUMMIT

(18-20 May 2022, Leipzig)

Upon invitation by the Presidency (Morocco) of the *International Transport Forum* (ITF), the BSEC PERMIS participated in the 2022 ITF Annual Summit, which was held from 18 to 20 May 2022 in Leipzig, Germany.

The generic topic of this year's Summit was «*Transport for Inclusive Societies*» and the debates were concentrated on how innovative technologies and business models in transport can enable sustainable economic growth while also promoting social inclusion. The discussions focused on current and emerging issues relevant to inclusive transport, including the physical and social dimensions of accessibility, new mobility, and promoting resilience and equity within the transport labour market.

The BSEC PERMIS participated in the *Open Ministerial Session: «Governing for inclusion: the right framework for universal access»*, held on 19 May, during which the Ministers, observers, guest countries and intergovernmental organizations had an interactive discussion following presentations from industry leaders with all Summit delegates in attendance.

In his statement, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazăr Comănescu highlighted that the agenda of the Ministerial meeting has the substantial meaning for the BSEC region, especially in light of the current developments in the region and the Covid-19 crisis. Ambassador Comănescu underlined that BSEC has been actively coordinating its efforts with its partner transport organizations, with the aim to introduce practical steps which can facilitate border-crossings in the BSEC Region, given the long delays and other logistical problems that truck-drivers are facing at most border crossing points.

On the sidelines of the Summit the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Anouar BENAZZOUZ, the newly elected President of the *International Road Federation* (IRF) and Ms. Suzanna ZAMMATARO, IRF Director General, with the aim to further coordinate efforts and cooperation, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between BSEC and IRF in 2006.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General also had bilateral meetings with Mr. Young Tae Kim, ITF Secretary-General; Mr. François Davenne, Director General of the *International Union of Railways* (UIC); Mr. Steve Phillips, Secretary-General of the *Conference of European Directors of Roads* (CEDR).