



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE BSEC PERMIS PARTICIPATION IN THE ITF 2023 ANNUAL SUMMIT

(24-26 May 2023, Leipzig)

Upon invitation by the United Kingdom Presidency of the International Transport Forum (ITF), the BSEC PERMIS participated in the ITF 2023 Annual Summit, which was held from 24 to 26 May 2023 in Leipzig, Germany.

The topic of this year's Summit was «*Transport Enabling Sustainable Economies*» and the debates were concentrated on the role of transport as an enabler of economic growth that also drives environmental and social sustainability. The discussions focused on the role of transport in enhancing social welfare, providing benefits to society, and promoting inclusion, while minimizing externalities, such as traffic congestion, air and maritime pollution, and road crashes. It also covered how transport stakeholders can promote system resilience through better planning for recurrent shocks to the transport system.

The PERMIS participated in the Open Ministerial Session: «*Boosting sustainable economies through greening transport*», held on 25 May, which addressed the need for transformational change in the transport sector, including the urgency of significant behavioural change. It explored how economic growth can be rendered more sustainable by decarbonizing transport and reducing other environmental externalities of transport, such as its effects on biodiversity, air and maritime quality, and health.

In his statement, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General highlighted that the protection of the environment has been high on the agenda of the BSEC Organization, not least in the sector of transports, which has a lot to do with the efforts aimed at finding climate and environmental solutions for the Sustainable Development. In this context, Ambassador Lazăr Comănescu underlined that BSEC projects, such as the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, are expected to contribute to the development of reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, supporting the growth of trade among the countries of the region.

On the sidelines of the Summit the BSEC PERMIS representatives met with Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), Mr. François Davenne, Director General of the International Union of Railways (UIC), Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, Mr. Steve Phillips, Secretary General of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR), Ms. Suzanna Zammataro, Director General of the International Road Federation (IRF) and Mr. Constantin Gabriel Bunduc, Secretary of State for Transport and Infrastructure of Romania. The interlocutors discussed ways and means for further deepening cooperation and coordination in the area of transport.