

News from the Black Sea

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS)



PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (PERMIS)



Message of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we herewith present the 18th issue, of the “News from the Black Sea” which is the last of the series for year 2021.

This year has been marked by a change in guard at the BSEC. Alongside the cautious recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic that has posed a major challenge worldwide including for the BSEC geography during the last two years, we bid farewell

to the Albanian Chairmanship-in-Office and to the former Secretary General of the PERMIS, who together spared no effort to keep the Organization fully functioning at its best during this difficult period.

Under the guidance of the current Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office we continued and further intensified these efforts so that, despite the still persisting constraints of the pandemic, we carry out to the best possible our mission. An intense schedule of meetings, events, courtesy and working visits to BSEC capitals has kept the PERMIS very busy. You will find in this issue a glimpse of the outcomes of all these events and we hope you will enjoy the read.

The upcoming year 2022 is a very significant one for BSEC, since we will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Organization. As you may well know, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation came into existence as a unique and promising model of multilateral economic cooperation with the signing of the Istanbul Summit Declaration and the Bosphorus Statement by the Heads of State and Government of the countries in the region, on 25 June 1992. Located on two continents, BSEC encompasses an area of nearly 20 million square kilometers representing a region of more than 340 million people. It is becoming Europe's major transport and energy transfer corridor and is continuing to grow in many other fields, cooperating intensely with other global and regional institutions. I believe that the upcoming Anniversary will serve as an important opportunity to take stock of our many accomplishments and chart the course for the future. There will be many events to mark the “birthday” of the Organization. They will be announced on the BSEC website and social media accounts. You will also be able to follow these in the next issues of the newsletters all year long.

Dear Readers,

Another year has come to an end. I hope that as we leave behind this past year, we will set sail to a brighter and healthier new year of 2022 with all the good fortune and opportunities it may offer us. As they say “every dark cloud has a silver lining”. I would therefore like to wish you all on behalf of the BSEC PERMIS and myself, a safe and healthy year loaded with new goals, achievements and happiness.

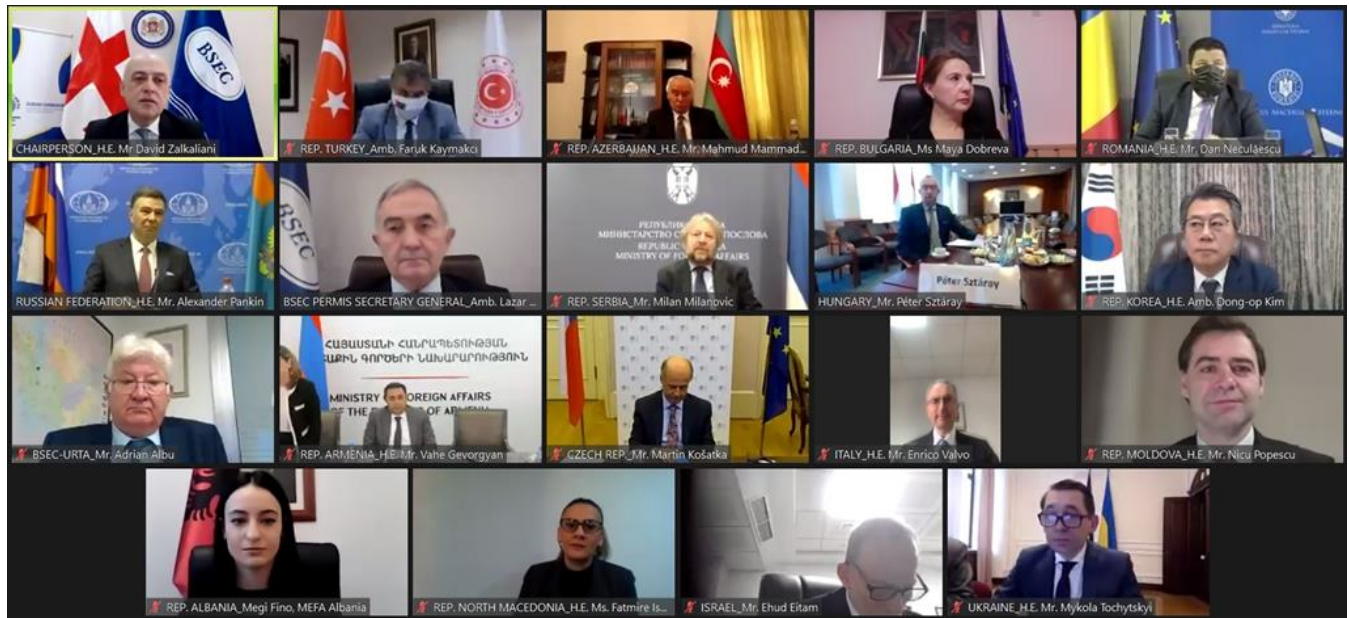
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ambassador Lazar Comanescu

HEADLINES

- **44th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA)**
- **Working visits to BSEC capitals**
- **Courtesy visits and consultations at the BSEC Headquarters**
- **General information on BSEC Working Groups**
- **Energy**
- **Environmental/Maritime issues**
- **Information and Communication Technologies**
- **Statistics**
- **Tourism**
- **Transport**
- **Other events**

44th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (CMFA)



The 44th CMFA was held online on 17 December 2021. H.E. Mr. David Zalkaliani, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, chaired the meeting hosted by PERMIS.

In addition to the Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners also participated in the Council Meeting.

At the opening, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu presented a brief overview of the activities and achievements of the Secretariat during the Georgian Chairmanship. He also offered insight on the possible requisites to render the Organization more effective based on his first impressions and experience during the first six months of his tenure as Secretary General. He underlined his commitment to furthering the objectives and interests of the BSEC and to deliver on an ever more assertive, dynamic, efficient and project-oriented Organization. The Secretary General also drew attention to the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the BSEC which will serve as an important opportunity to take stock of the many accomplishments and chart the course for the next decades.

The Ministers made statements on issues regarding the latest developments in the region and within the Organization. They praised the successful Georgian Chairmanship and expressed their appreciation.

At the closing session, the Council adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues on the agenda of the Organization, among others, organizational and financial issues; appointment of country coordinators to the Working Groups; adoption of the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance; the interaction between BSEC and its Related Bodies; review of the state of cooperation among the Member States; celebration of the 30th Anniversary of BSEC; including the efficiency of the working methods, as well as the appointment of a Deputy Secretary General, and renewal of the term-in-office of two Executive Managers.

Georgia handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to the Republic of Moldova which assumes the Chairmanship as of 1 January 2022, for a period of six months until 30 June 2022.

WORKING AND COURTESY VISITS

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu paid working visits to the capitals of some BSEC Member States.

Visit to Tbilisi



In the framework of the BSEC Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, paid a working visit on 18 October 2021 to Tbilisi. He was received by the Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. David Zalkaliani, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Alexander Khvtisiashvili, as well as the Chair of the Committee of Culture of the Parliament of Georgia, H.E. Ms. Eliso Bolkvadze.

The visit provided an opportunity to review the activities held under the priorities of the Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office and to further discuss issues pertaining to important events in the period ahead, including the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the Organization. Increasing the efficiency and visibility of the Organization and pursuing the project oriented activities of the PERMIS as well as the importance of the regional transport projects to further the objectives and interests of the BSEC were also addressed.

Visit to Baku

In the margin of his participation at the VIII Global Baku Forum, Ambassador Comanescu held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, on 5 November 2021. The meeting provided for an exchange of views on the situation in the BSEC area and on the perspective for further enhancement of cooperation within the Organization. While underlining the importance of this cooperation for the economic development of the region, both sides emphasized the necessity to further intra- and inter-regional connectivity and stressed an urgent need for promotion of trade and transport facilitation.



Issues related to the forthcoming 30th Anniversary of BSEC, possible ways to further increasing effectiveness and efficiency, as well as the need for active involvement of regional business communities in the cooperation process were also discussed.

Visit to Moscow



Upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, paid a working visit to Moscow on 8-10 December 2021, to discuss issues related to the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC (second half of 2022) and to the 30th BSEC Anniversary to be celebrated in 2022.

Minister Lavrov fully endorsed the idea of the organization of a BSEC Summit on the occasion of the 30th BSEC Anniversary and the adoption of a Declaration thereby. In addition to several details considered during the visit, the two sides also agreed that the BSEC's activities may be further improved and that there is need for strengthening the involvement of the business communities, respectively of revitalizing the BSEC Business Council as well as of strengthening the project-oriented approach of BSEC. His Excellency Lavrov brought to the attention, in this context, that the Economic Agenda of the Organization needs to be updated, as much has changed since its adoption in 2012.

The program of Secretary General's visit to Moscow included meetings with other several high level Russian officials as well as a lecture at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu received several visitors during the period covered by this edition, wishing him a successful tenure and expressing support and cooperation in fulfilling his mandate to further the objectives of the BSEC.

Courtesy visit by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı paid a courtesy visit to the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu on 8 October 2021. The Secretary General gave an overview of upcoming meetings, events and visits as well as possible deliverables for the 30th Anniversary to be commemorated next year. The Deputy Minister reiterated Turkey's strong support for the BSEC and the Secretary General's

aim to further promote the objectives and interests of the Organization. The meeting took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.



Consultation visit by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Alexander Pankin, and his delegation visited the BSEC Headquarters on 20 October 2021 for consultations with the BSEC PERMIS.

A broad range of issues relating to the activities of BSEC, particularly in view of the forthcoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation during the second half of 2022, were discussed. Among others, preparations for the 30th Anniversary of the BSEC, further enhancing the efficiency of the Organization, its project-oriented activities and broader cooperation with BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Observers, revitalizing the BSEC Business Council, as well as Financial, budgetary, administrative and personnel issues were also discussed.



Courtesy visit by the Consul General of the Observer country Republic of Austria, Mr. Josef Saiger, 5 October 2021.

Courtesy visit by PABSEC Secretary General, Mr. Asaf Hajiev, 5 October 2021.



Working visit by Ms. Maya DOBREVA, Director General for Political Affairs and acting Director General for Bilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Bulgaria, 6 December 2021.



Working visit by the newly elected Secretary General of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), Mr. Mehmet Uylukçu and the current Secretary General, Mr. Adrian Albu, 14 December 2021.

BSEC WORKING GROUPS

During the period covered by this Newsletter the BSEC PERMIS also held a number of Working Group meetings covering such areas as Agriculture and Agro-Industry, Banking and Finance, Budgetary and Financial Issues, Cooperation in Combating Crime, Culture, Customs Matters, Education, Energy, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, ICT, Organizational and Legal Matters, Science and Technology, Trade and Economic Development, and Transport.

For more events during the Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC please visit:

<http://www.bsec-organization.org/events/page-1>

ENERGY

Green Energy Investments Forum

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu attended the “8th Green Energy Investments Forum” organized by the BSEC-GEN under the auspices of the BSEC Organization and held within the framework of the “14th Annual International Scientific Conference on Energy and Climate Change” in Athens, on 13 October 2021.

The Forum was co-chaired by the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebeleu and the Director of the Energy Policy and Development Center (KEPA) of the National & Kapodistrian University (NKUA), Professor Dimitrios MAVRAKIS.

In his statement, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu expressed his appreciation to KEPA for its comprehensive activities, covering a wide range of topics including energy geopolitics, regional energy markets, the promotion of energy investments and trade, climate change and Green Economy. He stressed that a productive teamwork with energy-related international organizations and institutions will greatly promote the project-oriented cooperation in the areas of sustainable energy and infrastructure development and expressed the hope that governments will encourage investments in green energy and spare no efforts to materialize the vision of transforming the BSEC Region into a model for clean energy in the nearest future.

ENVIRONMENTAL/ MARITIME ISSUES



Third Meeting of the Steering Group of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea (Online, 11 October 2021).

The Steering Group was held with approximately 55 participants from the wider Black Sea area and beyond. The participants exchanged information on the activities related to the Common Maritime Agenda implementation.

For more details please visit: <https://blackseablueeconomy.eu/>.

The Webinar on “Climate crisis: natural hazards, climate change impact and countermeasures in the Black Sea region”



The Webinar organized by the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), was held online on 12 October 2021. The Webinar aimed at bringing together stakeholders from the Black Sea countries, regional and international organizations to share the latest data on climate change and natural hazards in the region, as well as to discuss mitigation measures and a socio-economic response.

Invited by the organizers, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu underlined that changes in the global climate exacerbate climate hazards and amplify the risk of extreme weather disasters and that the Black Sea region has not been spared. He reminded that the region witnessed unprecedented waves of wildfires, floods, muddy torrents, overgrowth of marine mucilage in the current year. Ambassador Comanescu went on to say that there should be thorough thinking on how to radically alter the relationship with nature for the better, and find solutions to the three planetary crises that threaten our collective future: the climate crisis, the biodiversity and nature crisis, and the pollution and waste crisis. While underlining that it is only in addressing these three closely connected crises scaling up to a sustainable consumption and production that we can truly build resilience, he assured that BSEC has already taken action toward reaching the level of coordination needed to achieve setup goals through relevant working groups and joint projects with other international organizations and institutions.



The kick-off event for the EU "Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity – REST-COAST"

The kick-off event took place on 3-5 November 2021, in Barcelona, Spain. The REST-COAST aims to demonstrate to what extent upscaled coastal restoration can provide a low-carbon adaptation, reducing risks and providing gains in biodiversity for vulnerable coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands or seagrass beds. In this framework, the BSEC PERMIS, together with 37 other international organizations and institutions from 11 countries, submitted a project proposal which was accepted for funding with a total amount of 18 million EUR. The BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager, Ms. Rositsa STOEVA, made a presentation highlighting PERMIS's capacity in supporting the project's implementation by contributing to the communication and dissemination activities through its extensive network of stakeholders in the wider Black Sea area and beyond.



Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea Regional Stakeholders Conference: Towards CMA projects for a resilient and sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea

The "Annual CMA Regional Stakeholders Conference" took place online, on 22 November 2021, under the 2021 Turkish Coordination of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA).

With a strong turnout from across the seven CMA countries and regional organizations, the Conference presented the progress to date in the implementation of the CMA across the Black Sea and fostered discussions for further action and concrete ways forward to ensure synergies across the various initiatives ongoing in the region.

Black Sea stakeholders discussed project concepts covering the CMA's three headline goals to stimulate their further development which also highlighted the readiness of organizations such as the World Bank and Black Sea Trade and Development Bank to support Black Sea entrepreneurship (SMEs) that enables a greener, more innovative and more resilient Black Sea blue economy.

Black Sea Assistance Mechanism (BSAM) National Hubs activities in support to the CMA implementation

Ukrainian National Hub

The Ukrainian “National Consultation” event entitled “Blue economy strategy for the Black Sea: Ukrainian contribution”, took place under the umbrella of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) implementation, online, on 12 November 2021 with the objective to initiate the national discussion on blue economy implementation steps and the possibility of elaborating an action plan.

Romanian National Hub

The Romanian event entitled “Unlocking the development potential for the Black Sea” took place on 18 November 2021.

Sought to stimulate discussions, with the help of a high-level panel, which offered an overview of the CMA, its specificities for Romania and numerous tools and resources at the disposal of Romanian stakeholders. It also aimed to identify joint ideas and actions, as well as programs to support an innovative, resilient, and sustainable blue economy in the region.

Bulgarian National Hub

The Bulgarian National Hub of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea hosted, on 30 November 2021, a “National Stakeholders” event entitled “Sustainable Blue Economy - Trends and Prospects for Bulgaria”, with the support of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism.

BBSEA National Consultation in the Russian Federation

The latest “National Consultation” event on 1 October 2021 about the flagship “Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA) to tackle marine pollution in the Black Sea region”, focused on the Russian Federation. The session, held in conjunction with the World Bank, the Black Sea Commission and the Russian Federal Ministries as well as Rostov and Krasnodar Regions generated ideas and suggestions from the expert audience to help develop the BBSEA program and the implementation of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) in Russia and beyond.

The event sought feedback on Russia’s key pollution sources and challenges; what policy frameworks are already in place; who are the key stakeholders; and what are the possible sources of funding and investment. Russia’s ecosystem approach in maritime activities and towards the CMA, as well as the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) were also presented during the meeting. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu said that marine litter and marine pollution are regional challenges, a problem that therefore requires a regional solution based on consistent multilateral cooperation supported by adequate and consistent funding.



ARSINOE Project launched: Towards a climate resilient future

We are pleased to report that the BSEC PERMIS, as part of a consortium, co-submitted a project proposal under the Horizon 2020 Call, entitled "Climate resilient regions through systemic solutions and innovations" (ARSINOE), which has been approved for funding by the European Commission. ARSINOE, which started on 1 October 2021 and will run for 48 months, aims to identify the solutions needed for a successful transformation towards a climate-resilient future.

BSEC PERMIS will be a key partner in the project, in particular, in keeping the consortium of 40 international organizations and institutions that are at the heart of it in touch with Black Sea stakeholders.



Ms. Anastasiia Korpusova is the first prize winner of the Regional Essay Competition for the Youth!

We congratulate Ms. Korpusova for her essay on the competition "Saving our Sea: new ways to reduce marine pollution in the Black Sea".

The competition was organized as an initiative within the framework of the Project "Pilot innovative solutions for fighting marine litter in the Black Sea", aiming to raise awareness and

motivate young people in the BSEC Member States to take action against the growing marine pollution challenge in the Black Sea.

We applaud all the winners and thank all the participants for their enthusiasm and contribution which made it very difficult for the evaluation committee to shortlist the best 10 essays among the 300 contestants.

You may access the essay of the first prize winner Ms. Anastasiia Korpusova and to the list of the finalists from the following links:

http://core.bsec-organization.org/UploadedFiles/OtherFiles/197_anastasiia-korpusova-daha0mu l.pdf

<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/UploadedDocuments/EssayYouthCompetition/FINAL%20RESULTS%20-%20WEBSITE.pdf>

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

10th Korea-BSEC ICT Cooperation Program (online, 23 November 2021)

As a long-standing cooperation between the BSEC and the Republic of Korea, the “10th Korea-BSEC ICT Cooperation Program” was organized on 23 November 2021 by the National Information Society Agency of Korea.

The Korea-BSEC ICT Cooperation Program has been organized yearly since 2011, with the financial support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and Safety and Korea National Information Society Agency.

Due to the restrictions posed by the ongoing pandemic, the program this year was organized in the form of a training Webinar and was focused on Digital Government policy and services based on emerging technologies. Government Integrated Data Center, Korean Digital New Deal Policy, ICT based Responses against Infectious Disease and other topics were also among the main topics of the webinar.

The Webinar was attended by the public officials from the BSEC Member States dealing with the ICT systems to support the development of the information society at national and local levels, in total 38 participants. The BSEC PERMIS was represented by Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu.

STATISTICS

Seminar on the “Challenges Faced by the Official Statistics during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

The online Seminar held on 4-5 November 2021, was organized by the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria (NSI) and the BSEC PERMIS.

During the Seminar, participants were presented with a handful of new products and good practices applied by different statistical authorities in the context of the global pandemic, including the OECD COVID-19 Recovery Dashboard, questionnaires dedicated to the impacts of COVID-19 on labor market and households. The challenges faced by the Black Sea region’s statistical authorities during the global pandemic and the solutions applied in the process of tackling them, such as alternative and new data sources, innovative methods for data collection, production and dissemination, changes in the organization of work at the statistical authorities were among the main topics discussed during the Seminar.

TOURISM

24th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu attended the UNWTO General Assembly held on 30 November to 3 December 2021 in Madrid which gathered more than 1,000 participants from 135 countries, including 84 ministers and deputy ministers of tourism, representatives of international organizations, as

well as leaders from the private sector and civil society.

The participants discussed the future of the strategic sector for many countries badly hit by the pandemic, with a view to relaunching and leading a sustainable tourism recovery. In line with the UNWTO's core priorities, the General Assembly focused on building for the future through innovation, education and tourism for rural development.

On the occasion of the General Assembly, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu met with the UNWTO Secretary General Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili to discuss ways and opportunities to enhance and further expand the very fruitful partnership already established between the two Organizations.

Workshop for Young Diplomats

The fourth edition of the Workshop for Young Diplomats from the BSEC Member States on “Importance of Tourism for the Economies in the Black Sea Region”, jointly organized by BSEC PERMIS and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Turkey (KAS), was held on 6-8 October 2021 in Tirana, Albania. The Workshop provided an excellent opportunity for future foreign policy decision-makers in the Black Sea area to interact and address the importance of regional cooperation on issues of common concern for the BSEC Member States.

A simulation game on “CSO Meeting on how to effectively promote the regional cooperation in the tourism sector in the Black Sea area” took place.

It was conceived as way of introducing the participants to the objectives, procedures and functioning of the BSEC Organization, while, at the same time, familiarizing them with some of the most topical issues of regional cooperation related to the tourism sector in the Black Sea area.



TRANSPORT

Meeting of the BSEC Member States participating in the "BSEC Permit System"

The Meeting, held online on 12 October 2021, welcomed the intention of the Republic of North Macedonia to join the Project as of 2022 and invited other BSEC Member States who are not currently participating in the BSEC Permit System, to join it. They considered the usage of permits in 2021 and agreed to double the number of permits for the year 2022 for most of the countries participating in the project. The delegations underlined that the constantly growing number of the BSEC permits confirms the significant results achieved in this field of BSEC cooperation.

15th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

At its online Meeting on 9 November 2021, the Steering Committee discussed the negative impact of Covid-19 on the road transport sector, border-crossing facilitation in the BSEC region, digitalization of transport documents, accession to international agreements, facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers, cooperation with international road transport organizations and other transport related issues. The Steering Committee unanimously approved Ukraine for the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee.

15th Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA



BSEC PERMIS participated in the “15th Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA”, which was held online on 21 October 2021. In his statement, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between BSEC and TRACECA, aimed especially at ensuring the complementarity of their activities. He underlined that in the transport area many issues and challenges are common and the joint efforts of BSEC and TRACECA could be of paramount significance for decisively facilitating the transport of goods in the wider Black Sea and Eurasian regions.

38th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly

On 25 November 2021, the BSEC PERMIS participated in the “38th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly”, held in Istanbul. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu congratulated the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary and reiterated the full support of BSEC to the BSEC-URTA in its efforts to improve road transportation in the BSEC region and beyond. Ambassador Comanescu expressed gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA Mr. Adrian Iosif

Albu for his dedicated and valuable contribution to the work of the BSEC Organization, as well as congratulated Mr. Mehmet Uylukçu on his appointment as the new BSEC-URTA Secretary General.



Workshop on “Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs”



The BSEC PERMIS, represented by Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebeleu and the PERMIS Project Coordinator participated on 30 September – 1 October 2021, in the virtual training workshop seeking to enhance the capacity of policymakers from Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and transit countries and equip them with knowledge and skills required to develop relevant policies to promote transport connectivity.

12th Transport and Communication Forum



On 6-8 October 2021, the BSEC PERMIS participated in the “12th Transport and Communication Forum”, which was held in Istanbul gathering ministers in charge of transport and communications, heads of international organizations, representatives of leading associations, unions and institutions of the sector from all over the world.

2nd United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference

The Conference, was held on 14 -16 October in Beijing, China, in a “hybrid format” under the theme of “Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development”. The BSEC PERMIS followed this event virtually and contributed to its work by sharing the experience of BSEC in developing better transports between its Member States and beyond for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In his video message, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu informed on BSEC’s efforts in the

In his speech during the TransportTech session, the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebelev emphasized that there is no alternative to digitalization and automation of procedures for international transport and, in this context, that the BSEC Organization fully supports the efforts aimed at implementing e-TIR, e-CMR for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC Region and e-Visa for professional drivers from the BSEC Member States.

The BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator Mr. Sergii Kravchenko participated in the Meeting of General Directorates in charge of Road Transport and acquainted the participants with the BSEC activities aimed at facilitating border-crossings in the BSEC Region, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic.



transport sector and its regional projects, as the contribution of the BSEC Organization to other greater projects covering the Eurasian region.



Invited by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the said Conference held in Bucharest on 21 October 2021. The Secretary General highlighted that transport connectivity plays a significant role in the social and economic development of BSEC Member States and is therefore among the top priority items in the agenda of the Organization.

Consultations on e-CMR

Rules for transporting goods internationally are covered by the United Nations Convention for the carriage of goods, known as the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR).

The BSEC PERMIS participated in the consultations on e-CMR (digital equivalent of the CMR transport document), initiated by Ukraine, which were held online on 11 November 2021, as a follow-up to the Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, held on 9 November 2021. Experts and transport authorities that took part in the meeting exchanged views on the e-CMR and the possible introduction of e-CMR pilot project for the BSEC Region.



The Webinar was organized on 11 November 2021 by the 2021 CMA Turkish coordination, addressing the first two goals of the Common Maritime Agenda, namely the “Healthy Marine Ecosystems” and “Innovative Blue Economy”. It aimed at sharing knowledge and strengthening cooperation between the littoral countries of the Black Sea, particularly on the prevention of pollution and preparedness for common response.

In his statement, the BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator Mr. Sergii Kravchenko emphasized that the BSEC Secretariat was supporting its Member States in developing and endorsing the CMA, which created a new dynamic in the regional dialogue on sustainable Blue Economy development and reiterated the need for effective preservation of the marine environment.

OTHER EVENTS



Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF) – an overview of the past one year.

The “Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF)” was held on 11 October 2021 through video conference. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Donor side (Russian Federation), the BSEC PERMIS, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and the BSPPF Manager.

Participants engaged in an overview of the BSPPF activities during the past one year, looked into the results achieved so far in what concerns the implemented projects and exchanged views on the expected outcome of the projects currently under implementation. The financial performance of the “Facility” as well as the respective reports were also reviewed during the meeting.

UfM Forum

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated, upon the invitation of Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, as key note speaker on sustainable economic recovery in the “6th UfM Regional Forum” which took place in Barcelona on 29 November 2021.

In his address to the participants to the Forum, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General made a presentation of the BSEC and its activities, highlighting the main actions and initiatives of the Organization directed at the support of economic growth in and cooperation among the countries in the area, with special emphasis on promotion of investments and trade.

VIII Global Baku Forum



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the “VIII Global Baku Forum” held on 4-6 November 2021 in Baku.

The main topic of the Forum, which was attended by Heads of States and Governments, Ministers, Members of Parliaments, as well as other prominent participants such as representatives of international organizations and institutions, academics and business people, was “The world after the Covid-19”. The Forum provided ground for comprehensive discussions on issues such as the emerging post-Covid-19 global order, the new world economy, climate change, energy, peace and security.

In his address to the Forum, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General emphasized the efforts and contributions of the Organization aimed at meeting the challenges in the area of climate change and energy. Ambassador Lazar Comanescu highlighted in this context that such challenges can only be appropriately dealt with through an enhanced international cooperation, at the bilateral, regional and global level.



Workshop on Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship in Cultural Tourism for Coastal Communities in the Black Sea Region

The first “CulTourE4Youth” Workshop was held in Mersin, organized by the Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS) on 30 November 2021. The Workshop gathered together young entrepreneurs of ages 18 to 30 in the field of maritime and cultural tourism, representatives of international institutions, academicians, regional authorities, business operators and training institutions.

This one-day event was perceived as an opportunity for young people from the region to get information from the local authorities about the opportunities related to cultural tourism in their region, as well as to exchange good practices when it comes to the entrepreneurship activities.

“CulTourE4Youth” project co-funded by the European Commission and coordinated by BSEC PERMIS runs for 12 months under the coordination of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), in cooperation with the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) of the Conference of the Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS).



Darüşşafaka Caddesi, Seba Center İş Merkezi, No: 45, Kat 3, İstinye, Sarıyer – İstanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 (212) 229 63 30-35; Fax: +90 (212) 229 63 36

✉ info@bsec-organization.org www.bsec-organization.org
f <https://www.facebook.com/BSECPERMIS/>