

# 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,**

We are publishing the 20th issue of our “News from the Black Sea” which is also the second in 2022, the very year that marks the 30th Anniversary of the BSEC Organization.

As you may well know, the BSEC was founded in 1992 with the objective of promoting regional economic cooperation among the Member States in a spirit of good neighborly relations to serve the interest of peace, stability and prosperity in the wider Black Sea area.

Much to our regret developments in our region which we referred to in the preceding Newsletter and which do not bode well with these objectives continued and as a consequence many meetings of the BSEC working groups and other events initially scheduled for the period covered by this issue (April-July 2022) had to be postponed or held informally.

However, the Member States still had at their disposal a platform to discuss various matters of urgency and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat under the able guidance of the Republic of Moldova, who took over the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office for the period of 1 January – 30 June 2022 and has graciously extended it for another six months under these challenging circumstances, spared no efforts to keep the BSEC channels open for cooperation.

**Dear Readers,**

You will find updated information in this issue on the major topics related to BSEC. As you will observe, despite the many drawbacks related to the period in question, the BSEC PERMIS has been particularly active in raising the profile and image of the Organization through its participation in numerous international and regional events.

In the meantime, be assured that the founding mission of the Organization continues to guide our endeavors and we reiterate once again our hope that dialogue and wisdom will prevail so that a solution in full compliance with international law will be found without further delay to return to an environment conducive to constructive economic engagement for the benefit of all Member States and the region as a whole.

May peace be restored in the Black Sea Region.

***Ambassador Lazar Comanescu***

## HEADLINES

- **25 June BSEC Day**
- **Working and courtesy visits**
- **Release of the “Black Sea React! Project” video**
- **Events and meetings attended by the BSEC PERMIS**
- **Other events**



*- Istanbul Summit, 25 June 1992 -*

### **BSEC Day – 25 June**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu sent a letter to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States and also issued a message on the occasion of the BSEC Day. The message is available on the BSEC website:

<http://www.bsec-organization.org/news/68382the-30th-bsec-anniversary>



### **Interview of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General with TRT World**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu held a live interview with TRT World upon their request on 7 June 2022.

Link to the interview:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=rCqW73o\\_FuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=rCqW73o_FuA)

## WORKING AND COURTESY VISITS

***The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu continued to pay working visits to a number of capitals of BSEC Member States.***

### Visit to Ankara



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu visited Ankara on 11-12 May 2022. During his first day in Ankara, he met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, during which an exchange of views took place on the developments in the region as well as the current state of play in respect to the work and activities of the BSEC PERMIS under the present circumstances.

On 12 May 2022, the Secretary General was invited to participate at the “FPI & KAS Lunch Discussion Türkiye in Regional Initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe”, jointly organized by the Foreign Policy Institute and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and addressed the participants on Türkiye’s role in the Black Sea and BSEC.

During his stay in Ankara, Ambassador Comanescu also met with Mr. Mehmet Uylukçu, Secretary General of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC URTA). During their meeting, they discussed among others border crossing related aspects and agreed to further coordinate their efforts to facilitate road transportation in the BSEC region. Both sides highlighted the particular significance of the 30<sup>th</sup> BSEC Anniversary this year.

## Visit to Tehran



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, visited Teheran to participate as key note speaker in the Conference “Iran & 30-year-old BSEC: Prospects for Cooperation” organized on 30 May 2022 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in dedication to the 30<sup>th</sup> BSEC Anniversary.

On this occasion, Ambassador Comanescu met with H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mahdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy and Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General for Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides expressed mutual interest in enhancing the already active cooperation developed between BSEC and Iran, since 2009 when the latter became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of BSEC.

While in Teheran, Ambassador Comanescu also met the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, with the two interlocutors agreeing to an increased interaction between their organizations.

***The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu received several visitors during the period covered by this edition.***



***Courtesy visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Ms. Maria Elena P. Algabre and Consul General, Mr. Arvin De Leon, 13 April 2022.***



***Courtesy visit by the President of the Global Relations Forum, Ambassador Selim Yenel, former BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General, 19 April 2022.***



***Courtesy visit by the Consul General of the Slovak Republic, Ms. Veronica Lambardini, 21 April 2022.***



***Courtesy visit by the FAO representative in Türkiye and Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia, Mr. Viorel Gutu, 25 May 2022.***



***Courtesy visit by the Undersecretary for Foreign Policy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Claudio Javier Rozencwaig, 5 July 2022.***

The Consuls General of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America, also paid working visits to the Secretary General.

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### The “Black Sea React! Project” video has been released

The video, created within the “Black Sea React! Project”, aims to contribute to regional dialogue on mitigating and effectively tackling marine pollution and marine litter in the Black Sea, while at the same time seeking innovative solutions to salient problems. The project is co-funded by the European Commission under Grant Contract ENI/2020/421-957. The video is available on: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKlhQc\\_-hzE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKlhQc_-hzE)

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### EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE BSEC PERMIS



The BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebeleu and Executive Manager Ambassador Venera Domi attended the “Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) for the UNECE Region”, which took place on 6-7 April 2022, in Geneva.

The theme of the Forum this year was “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region”. The sessions consisted of High-Level Policy Segment, Multi-stakeholders Panel, Plenary Session on Experiences from the region with Voluntary National Reviews, Plenary Debate and the Closing Session. The above stated sessions were preceded by peer learning roundtables clustered around the SDGs 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equity), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnership for the goals).

Ambassador Chebeleu made a short intervention during the plenary debate and said that fostering cooperation among its 13 Member States in areas related to the SDGs has become a top priority for the work of BSEC. He underlined that no country can implement the SDGs alone and that real



progress could be realized by both national action and regional cooperation. He referred in this regard to the essential role BSEC can play in supporting the Member States to create the necessary policy framework and harmonize their action for sustainable economic development and for achieving the SDGs. He also made reference to the energy sector saying that in order to reduce the negative impacts of the pandemic on the energy sector and, more generally, to implement the Sustainable Development Goal 7, we should focus on Green Energy.



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Delphi Economic Forum which took place on 6-9 April 2022 in Greece.

The Secretary General Ambassador Comanescu participated as panelist in the panel titled

“Assessing the effects of the Ukraine crisis in South East Europe” and highlighted the fact that seven of the BSEC Member States were part of South East Europe (SEE) and that therefore the current situation in the BSEC area raises serious concerns for the entire SEE. Reiterating the position of the BSEC PERMIS with regards to the developments in the region, he stressed once again the need of an urgent end to the conflict and of a solution there of in full accordance with international law.

On the sidelines of the Forum Ambassador Comanescu held a meeting with H.E. Nicolas Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. They had a fruitful exchange of views on the current situation in the Black Sea area and on the possible actions and measures to be taken so that the region turns back to normal, including BSEC activities.



### Conference on the Three Seas Initiative(3SI)

A Conference on the Three Seas Initiative(3SI), launched in 2015 as a platform for cooperation among 12 central-eastern European countries in areas like infrastructure, energy and digitalization/innovation, was organized in Vienna, on 26 April 2022.

The topic of the conference was " The 3SI - an Instrument for Enhancing Regional Cooperation" and the debate concentrated mainly on the added value of the 3SI, the 3SI from a global perspective and the green transition as an engine of growth.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the Conference as panelist and appreciated the steps and projects already developed within the 3SI such as the establishment and operationalization of the 3SI Investment Fund, the endorsement of a list of priority projects and the organization of a 3SI Business Forum.



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

### 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe

The BSEC PERMIS participated in the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in Lodz, on 10-13 May 2022, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland and the FAO Office for Europe and Central Asia.

Deputy Secretary Ambassador Traian Chebeleu represented the BSEC PERMIS at the Conference chaired by Mr. Zbigniew RAU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, and attended by over 260 representatives from the FAO Member States in Europe and Central Asia and

several international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

The conference focused mainly topics on such as global food prices, transformative agri-food systems in Europe and Central Asia, FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, sustainable food value chains, etc.

Grave concern was expressed during the extensive discussions regarding the conflict in Ukraine and its implications for the global food security and agriculture as well as rising food, fertilizer and energy prices.

Ambassador Chebeleu made an intervention informing the participants about the project under implementation regarding the establishment of the BSEC Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, with the support of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Türkiye and Central Asia based in Ankara.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Bucharest Leaders' Summit “Protecting Europe in Turbulent Times”

The theme of this year's edition of the “Bucharest Leaders' Summit” held in Bucharest on 16-17 May was "Protecting Europe in Turbulent Times" and the debates consisted of an opening session and several panels held on diplomacy, energy, agriculture, transport, environment, sustainable development and digitalization.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu attended as key note speaker in the panel dedicated to Diplomacy, addressing the topic of regional cooperation with focus on the role of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the contribution of Romania to BSEC. He highlighted in this context the relevance of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BSEC and the opportunity it offers for reviewing the achievements so far of the Organization and, drawing there upon for defining and better streamlining the objectives and the activities for the period ahead.

On the occasion of his presence in Bucharest, Ambassador Comanescu had a meeting with Ms. Daniela Gitman, State Secretary for the European Union in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they exchanged views on the current situation and developments in the Black Sea area and their impact on BSEC activities.

## 2022 ITF Annual Summit

The BSEC PERMIS was represented by Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu at the 2022 ITF Annual Summit “Transport for Inclusive Societies” held on 18-20 May 2022 in Leipzig, Germany.



The debates of the Summit concentrated on how innovative technologies and business models in transport can enable sustainable economic growth while also promoting social inclusion, as well as 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 labor market.

During his statement, Ambassador Comanescu highlighted that the agenda item of the Ministerial Meeting “Governing for inclusion: the right framework for universal access” had a substantial meaning for the BSEC region, especially in light of the current developments in the region and the Covid-19 crisis. He 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 Secretary General held 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.

### European Maritime Day 2022



The BSEC PERMIS participated in the “European Maritime Day 2022” (EMD), which was held on 19-20 May 2022 in Ravenna, Italy. The event was co-organized by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission, the City of Ravenna, the Ministry of

Sustainable Infrastructures and Sustainable Mobility of Italy and the Region of Emilia-Romagna.

The “European Maritime Day” is the annual two-day event during which Europe’s maritime community meets to network, discuss and forge joint action in areas of common interest. It targets maritime professionals, entrepreneurs and ocean leaders from businesses, governments, public institutions, NGOs and academia. This year’s edition was focused on ‘Sustainable blue economy for green recovery’. The event was attended by around 1450 participants from all sea basins, including from the wider Black Sea area (Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine). The next EMD 2023 will be held in Brest, France.

### 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, the Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, and Project Coordinator Mr. Sergii Kravchenko participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, held in Istanbul on 27 May 2022.

The General Assembly was chaired by Mr. Eduart Kasa, President of the BSEC-URTA, while the welcoming remarks were made by Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and by Mr. Murat Bastor, General Director for Regulation on Transport Services, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Türkiye.

In his statement, Ambassador Comanescu underlined that the growing and rewarding partnership between BSEC and BSEC-URTA is based on concrete joint projects and actions with regard to the road transport, particularly the BSEC Permit System, digitalization of transport documents, and border-crossing facilitation.

The General Assembly evaluated the BSEC-URTA activities including the Working Group on Digitalization of Transport Documents and appreciated the good cooperation and coordination with the BSEC Organization and IRU for facilitation of border crossing at main BSEC land and maritime routes. The BSEC PERMIS underlined the importance of the above Working Group, as a real practical platform for discussions on possible digital solutions.





### **UN International Meeting Stockholm +50**

The BSEC PERMIS was represented by Executive Manager Ambassador Venera Domi at the UN International Meeting “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” held in Stockholm on 2-3 June 2022.

The meeting commemorated the first international meeting addressing the environmental crisis “the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment” which gave birth to UNEP and also established the “Earth Environment Day”.

The main recommendation of the meeting co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya (host country of UNEP) was the proposal for a binding international treaty on plastic pollution initiated by New Zealand and backed by a number of countries. Furthermore, the two Co-Chairs presented 10 key recommendations that emerged through discussions in the plenary meetings and Leadership Dialogues. The said recommendations are accessible on:

<https://www.stockholm50.global/resources/stockholm50-recommendations-and-actions-renewal-and-trust>



### **9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics - CEMEPE 2022**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics - CEMEPE 2022**

The BSEC PERMIS participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE 2022), held in Mykonos, on 5-9 June 2022. During the conference, panels dedicated to the “ARSINOE” project took place, where the role of the BSEC PERMIS in supporting the Black Sea Case study was presented. Joint sessions with the sister projects TRANSFORMAR and IMPETUS under the REGILIENCE Coordination and Support Action framework were also organized where the recent developments related to the projects were presented, as well as possible joint actions/activities were discussed. Organization of a panel on the “ARSINOE” project within the forthcoming 9th European Urban Resilience Forum, to be held in Athens on 14-15 September 2022, was also touched upon. More information can be found at:

<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Event/eventDetails?targetID=2169>

The BSEC PERMIS, represented by Executive Manager Ms. Rositsa Stoeva, attended the panels dedicated to the ARSINOE project and informed the panelists on the role of the BSEC PERMIS in supporting the Black Sea Case study, covering the stakeholder's matrix identification, living labs preparation, contribution to the communication and dissemination activities, preparation of the data collection questionnaire and global indicator framework. More information on the ARSINOE project is available on: <https://arsinoe-project.eu/>



### 25<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Economic Summit

The 25<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Economic Summit was held in Istanbul on 7-9 June 2022. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Summit entitled “Build Back Better”, congratulated Dr. Akkan SUVER, President of the Marmara Group Foundation, and his team for their steady work over

the last 25 years dedicated to the development of multilateral cooperation and the promotion of international dialogue and understanding in Eurasia. Following a brief information on the current activities of the BSEC Organization, the 30<sup>th</sup> BSEC Anniversary, as well as the recent situation in the region, he focused his intervention on the “New Energy Economy”, emphasizing that energy has been one of the most important areas of cooperation among the BSEC Member States and that BSEC attaches prime importance to Green Energy. He further continued with the *key priorities* including issues such as energy security, sustainability, the possibility of harmonization of the national legislation of the BSEC Member States, strengthening of the cooperation between BSEC and other international organizations and agencies in the field of energy.



### **WEC Central and Eastern Europe Energy Forum – FOREN 2022**

WEC Central and Eastern Europe Energy Forum – FOREN 2022 entitled "Energy Transition needs Regional Cooperation" was held on 12-15 June 2022 in Costinesti, Romania.

The Forum, organized on a biannual basis, brought together high-level officials, representatives, managers and decision-makers of energy and environmental authorities from important energy-related companies and international organizations, including the World Energy Congress and the European Commission.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated as key note speaker in the Forum. He was accompanied by Executive Manager Ambassador Ashot Kocharian who attended the Forum as panelist and moderator.

In his address, the Secretary General, while reminding that 2022 is the year of BSEC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, made a presentation on the main objectives and activities of the Organization with focus on energy as one of the key areas of cooperation. He highlighted, in this context, the special attention given to the promotion of the Energy Transition in the BSEC Region, particularly of Green Energy and Green Energy investments.

Ambassador Kocharian moderated the session entitled "Black Sea Energy Potential and Investment Opportunities" and, as panelist, participated in the session entitled "Energy Conventional Resources for a Smooth Transition".



### **XXVth (Jubilee) edition of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum**

The BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Dr. Sergei Goncharenko participated in the XXVth (Jubilee) edition of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum which took place on 15-18 June 2022.

The main theme of the Forum was "New World – New Opportunities", with particular attention given to issues related to the formation of a fundamentally new multipolar economic model.

Dr. Goncharenko participated in debates and engaged in networking on issues such as Global strategic planning; Electric power industry; Global oil and gas market; science and technology; integration of culture and economy; Partnerships in Eurasia.

On the sidelines of the Forum several other events were organized such as the Forum for SMEs International youth economic forum, Regional consultative forum, Creative business forum, Drug safety forum, St.-Petersburg International Economic Forum Junior Dialogue, Arctic territory forum dialogue etc.





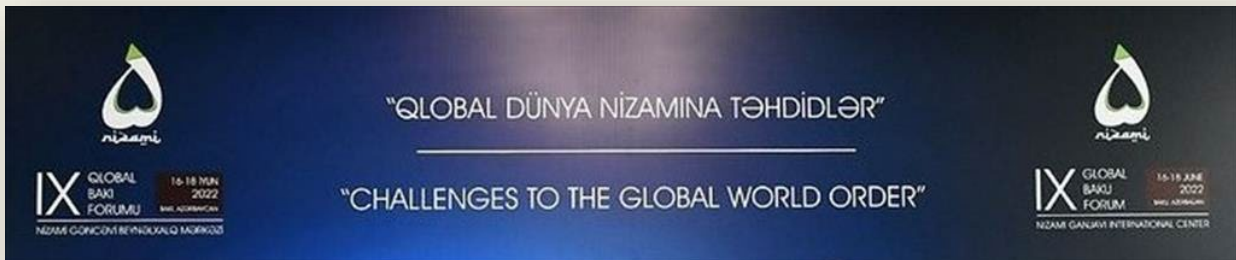
## D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

### D-8 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Investment Forum

First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Ebru Barutçu Gökdenizler represented the BSEC PERMIS at the D-8 Investment Forum held in Istanbul on 16 June 2022 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) celebrations under the theme

of “Honoring the past and shaping the future” of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

Participants highlighted the key investment opportunities in their respective countries during the event which was characterized as the first ever Investment Forum organized by the D-8.



### IX Global Baku Forum

The IX Global Baku Forum, organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center was held on 16-18 June 2022 in Baku, under the title “Challenges to the Global World Order” during which a comprehensive number of issues of both global and regional dimension were discussed.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Comanescu participated as panelist in the panel dedicated to the South Caucasus. While welcoming the recent developments there in, which could be a source of inspiration for others as well, he highlighted the efforts of the Organization aimed at fostering economic cooperation and through this confidence building in the region.



### **UfM Blue Finance Conference “Investing in a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean”**

The BSEC PERMIS participated in the Blue Finance Conference “Investing in a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean”, organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), on 22 June 2022 in Barcelona.

The aim of the Conference was to provide an overview of the current investment opportunities for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Blue Economy; to discuss the enabling conditions (policy/regulatory environment; technical assistance; etc.) to attract funding and organize direct networking opportunities and matchmaking sessions between countries and businesses and financial institutions, banks or investors. The possible organization of a similar event for the Black Sea, to be hosted by BSEC PERMIS, was discussed with the relevant Directorate of the European Commission. Meetings also took place with the UfM representatives to discuss possible ways for further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two entities.



### **MARINE CLUSTER BULGARIA**

### **Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB) - Bulgarian National Hub of the Black Sea Assistance Mechanism with the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea**

This year, the national event entitled “Bulgaria’s Blue Economy Innovation and Digitalization – towards higher resilience” took place on 22 June 2022. The main objective of the 2022 national conference was to promote current European policies and instruments for the support of digitalization and innovations towards higher resilience of the Blue Economy.

MCB is a full member of the European Network of Maritime Clusters and the Association of Business Clusters in Bulgaria and actively participates in the initiatives of the European Commission’s Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The organization has an observer status within the Balkan and Black Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions.

MCB is a partner in several international consortiums for the implementation of EU-funded projects in the area of sustainable Blue Economy for the Black Sea. Within BRIDGES-BS project, MSB will host the first edition of the High-Tech Summit for the Black Sea, to be held in Varna (Bulgaria) on 27 and 28 September 2022. More information about the forum can be found at: <http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Event/eventDetails?targetID=2165>

## BSTDB Board of Governors and Business Forum



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 24th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the BSTDB which took place on 23 June in Baku.

Ambassador Comanescu delivered a statement at the Opening Session of the Meeting where he highlighted the role of the BSTDB in boosting trade and economic development in the BSEC region as well as the excellent working relations that BSEC and BSTDB enjoy, and mentioned the efforts of both entities in the framework of the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF).

The BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager Mr. Kanan Murtuzov, who accompanied the Secretary General, participated in the Business Forum entitled “BSTDB role in supporting a diversified and innovative Azerbaijani economy in a changing world” organized on 24 June 2022. During the Bank’s Business Forum, the panelists shared with the participants information on the state of the economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its perspectives, including the role of BSTDB in attaining the priority goals.

On the margins of the above events, Ambassador Comanescu had the opportunity to meet H.E. Minister S. Sharifov, First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elnur Aliyev, BSTDB President Dmitry Pankin and other officials and discuss issues of shared interest. Ambassador Comanescu also met with the newly elected BSTDB President Mr. Serhat Köksal. The mutual interest and determination were expressed on this occasion towards further enhancing the PERMIS-BSTDB interaction.



First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Ebru Barutçu Gökdenizler represented the BSEC PERMIS at the "UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" held in Lisbon on 27 June - 1 July 2022.

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres delivered the opening address of the Conference co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya.

Delegations in their interventions in the plenary meetings provided information regarding the policies adopted to address environmental challenges as they relate to the oceans and seas and actions taken at the national, regional and international levels to implement the SDG14. There were also eight interactive dialogues held simultaneously with the plenary meetings on a wide range of issues related to the oceans.

In her statement Ambassador Barutçu Gökdenizler gave an overview of the efforts of the BSEC Organization in connection to the implementation of the SDG14, the protection of the marine environment and the prevention of the further degradation of the Black Sea.

The Conference concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future, our responsibility".

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## OTHER EVENTS

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Permanent Mission to BSEC



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its establishment with a reception and concert

performed by the Armenian National String Quartet after Komitas on 9 June 2022 at Cemal Reşit Rey Hall in Istanbul.

In his welcoming remarks the Permanent Representative of Armenia to BSEC Mr. Sahak Sargsyan stated that Armenia, as a founding member of the Organization, remains committed to the goals and principles of the BSEC in the context of 30th Anniversary of its foundation. During the opening ceremony the Permanent Mission of Armenia presented a recognition plaque to the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, who attended the event as a guest of honor.

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### Visit by the EastWest European Institute



A delegation from the EastWest European Institute located in Rome consisting of a group of students from different countries paid a visit to the BSEC Headquarters on 22 July 2022 where they received a briefing on the BSEC Organization and its activities.

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**BSEC PERMIS bids farewell to former colleague and welcomes new one.**

Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Traian Chebeleu concluded his term-in-office at the Secretariat. It was a privilege and honor for us to have worked over the years with such a knowledgeable and experienced colleague. We herewith convey our sincere gratitude for his valuable contribution to the work of the Organization, as well as for his exemplary professionalism and warm friendship during his tenure in the BSEC PERMIS.

At the same time, we extend our heartfelt welcome to his successors, Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, a well experienced colleague in BSEC affairs, who assumed his duties on the 1st of July 2022.





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