



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE “GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL MARITIME FORUM” (Batumi, 12-14 September 2018)

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, participated as a keynote speaker in the second panel of the “*Georgia International Maritime Forum*” (GIMF) titled “*Sustainable development – Role of Partnerships between International Organizations on the example of IMO and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*”.

Organized by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the country, the second GIMF event brought together high level representatives from the maritime sector, among them representatives from regional organizations and initiatives, from associations, as well as from the private sector. The participants of the Forum had the opportunity to present their respective activities and exchange ideas on how to further develop regional cooperation in the maritime sector, in particular, in the areas of environment monitoring and protection, “Blue Growth”, investment promotion, ports’ development and business opportunities.

In his intervention, Ambassador Christides underlined that cooperation among States and International Organizations is imperative, if not indispensable, in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in the wider sector of the Maritime industry. He appealed to the audience to make greater use of International Organizations, like the BSEC Organization, in order to coordinate efforts for sustainable development. He underlined the role of BSEC as the oldest and, institutionally, mature regional entity promoting mainly economic cooperation among its 12 Member States and beyond.

On the sidelines of the Forum Ambassador Christides met with H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of IMO, Ms. Maria Magdalena Grigore, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, H.E. Ambassador Altay Efendiev, Secretary General of GUAM, H.E. Mrs. Natasa Pilides, Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus and others.

During the Forum different side-events took place. BSEC PERMIS was invited to participate in the Regional Workshop on “*IMO Liability and Compensation Conventions*” (12 September), which was followed by Mrs. Rositsa Stoeva and in the Workshop on “*Investing in Sustainable Small-Scale Cruising for the Black Sea*” (14 September), which was followed by Ambassador Christides. Both events presented a very good opportunity for informing participants on BSEC activities and future plans, as well as for networking.