



**PRESS RELEASE ON
WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG DIPLOMATS FROM THE BSEC MEMBER STATES
“REGIONAL POLICIES IN THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA”**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 2018)

The first *Workshop for Young Diplomats from the BSEC Member States* on “*Regional Policies in the wider Black Sea area*”, jointly organized by BSEC PERMIS and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Turkey (KAS), was held on 22th - 24th October 2018 in Istanbul.

The Workshop, which was attended by 19 young diplomats from eleven BSEC Member States, provided an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of regional cooperation among the future foreign policy decision-makers in the Black Sea area, while it helped participants to meet with their counterparts from other BSEC Member States.

Representatives from BSEC PERMIS and KAS, as well as other eminent personalities from the region and beyond such as Mr. Ivaylo KALFIN, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria; Mr. Erol BILECIK, President of TÜSİAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association); Ms. Jeanette ZÜFLE, Head, Protection Service, Regional Bureau for Europe, UNHCR; Prof. Dr. Iulian CHIFU, President of the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Centre, Bucharest; Mr. Epaminondas FARMAKIS, Founder, Director of HumanRights360 and Prof. Dr. Markus C. SLEVOGT, President of the Turkish-German Industry and Trade Chamber, attended the Workshop as speakers.

In their welcoming speeches the PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES and Mr. Sven-Joachim IRMER, Director of KAS, underlined the importance of similar events, which should be evaluated as a precious “investment” for the future and stated that the Workshop will prove to be a valuable vehicle promoting the spirit of friendship and good neighborliness between the BSEC Member States, thus contributing to the enhancement of mutual respect and confidence, of dialogue and cooperation.

During the Workshop a simulation game on “*Action at the BSEC regional level aimed at contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*” took place. It was conceived as an educational simulation and aimed at 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, which fall within the scope of BSEC areas of cooperation.

The success of the event was such that almost all of the young diplomats spoke enthusiastically about the benefit they were able to gain from the event, proposing fervently that it should be institutionalized and, if possible, organized on an annual basis.