



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BSEC PERMIS WITH THE
MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES was received on Monday, 22 October 2018, in Ankara, by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Mehmet Nuri ERSOY.

The main aim of this visit was to inform the Minister on the latest developments concerning cooperation among BSEC Member States in the fields of Tourism and Culture and to exchange views on some issues on which the involvement of the Turkish Ministry is of paramount importance; even more so, since Turkey assumed the coordinator-ship of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES informed his high interlocutor on the ongoing preparations for the organization of an International Conference on attracting cruise tourism in the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, to be held in Istanbul in 2019, as a joint endeavour of the UNWTO, the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the BSEC PERMIS. The two sides agreed that it is of great importance to proceed timely with the signing of the relevant Agreement between the UNWTO and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It was also agreed that the first weeks of October 2019 could be the most appropriate period for hosting the event. H.E. Minister ERSOY reiterated the full commitment of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism for preparing and organizing this very important Conference in the best possible way.

Minister ERSOY promised also the support of his Ministry to the PERMIS initiative for organizing, in cooperation and with the expert participation of the UNWTO, a Seminar on how to attract more Chinese and Indian tourists to BSEC Member States, to be held in early 2019 at the BSEC Headquarters.

During the meeting the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General informed H.E. Minister ERSOY on many other activities and initiatives of the BSEC PERMIS and the relevant BSEC Working Groups on Cooperation in Tourism and on Culture.