



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 39th MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Baku, 14 December 2018)**

The 39th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Baku, on 14 December 2018. H.E. Mr. Elmar MAMMADYAROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan chaired the meeting.

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

The Ministers acknowledged the progress achieved during the outgoing year and highlighted the importance of further enhancing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area.

The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES expressed his thankfulness for the continued commitment of the Member States to the objectives of the Organization.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues, including the renewal of the Observer status of the Republic of Poland, and the French Republic; the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status of Montenegro, the Republic of Korea, and the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS); on the state of cooperation in the BSEC areas of cooperation; on the appointment of Country-Coordinators to BSEC Working Groups; on the activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies; and on the appointment/re-appointment of BSEC PERMIS Directorial Staff (Ambassador Selim Yener, First Deputy Secretary General and Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary General).

At the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony took place whereby the Republic of Azerbaijan handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to the Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgaria will assume the duties of BSEC Chairmanship for a period of six months, from 1 January to 30 June 2019.

On the sidelines of the Council Meeting, Ministers held important bilateral talks.