

## STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

To the Republic of Bulgaria, it is an honour and a great responsibility to assume the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the fourth time since its creation. We believe that, benefitting from the recognition of the growing significance and potential of the wider Black Sea region, a new vitality and momentum can be achieved within the framework of BSEC. Under the motto “Sea of Opportunities”, the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office will strive to give new impetus to the multilateral economic cooperation in the Black Sea region.

Over the next six months, Bulgaria will seek to further enhance the effectiveness of BSEC, mainly through emphasizing on the project-oriented cooperation. Bulgaria envisages to give priority to cooperation in the areas of **transport, culture and environmental protection**. The calendar of events, which has been prepared to move ahead in these priority areas, includes various activities such as sectoral Ministerial meetings, working group meetings, experts meetings, international conferences and workshops.

Taking advantage of the increased international interest towards the Black Sea region, the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office shall endeavor to further develop the productive interaction between BSEC and EU and to keep the Black Sea region high on the EU agenda.

The ultimate goal of Bulgaria’s efforts as Chair-in-Office will be to revitalize the significant potential of BSEC for promoting cooperation, prosperity and economic stability in the wider Black Sea region. For achieving these common ambitious goals, the Chairmanship-in-Office will rely on the active cooperation of all Member States.