



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE OFFICIAL START OF THE BULGARIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC
(January – June 2019)**

The Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office got officially underway during the “*Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, BSEC Related Bodies and the BSEC PERMIS*” held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 22 January 2019.

H.E. Ms. Emilia KRALEVA, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, presented the Priorities of the Chairmanship to the participants of the above-mentioned meeting.

The Deputy Minister underlined that under the motto “*Sea of Opportunities*”, the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office sets as its priorities the further development of BSEC as a project-oriented organization; the continuation of the processes of reform and adaptation of the organization to the contemporary challenges; the promotion of the meaningful interaction with the EU.

She further stated that Bulgaria shall put a particular emphasis on the project-oriented approach towards the regional cooperation, while the priority areas of sectoral cooperation during the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office will be culture, transport, and environmental protection. For more information on the priorities, please refer to the “*Priorities of the Chairmanship*” on the following link: <http://www.bsec-organization.org/chairmanship>

H.E. Ms. KRALEVA, was welcomed by the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, who conveyed the best wishes of the Secretariat for the success and the fulfillment of the priorities announced by the Bulgarian Chairmanship, reiterating that PERMIS will spare no effort to provide its full support and involvement during the entire period.

A signing ceremony of the “*Amending Protocol to the Host Country Agreement between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the International Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)*” also took place. The said Agreement was signed on behalf of the Republic of Turkey by H.E. Mr. Faruk KAYMAKCI, Ambassador, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs, and on behalf of BSEC by Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General.