



**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE EVENT “CONNECTING CULTURES - SHAPING A CREATIVE FUTURE  
FOR GEORGIA AND EUROPE”**

*(Tbilisi, 6 May 2019)*

BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General participated in the event “Connecting Cultures - Shaping a Creative Future for Georgia and Europe” initiated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia with the support of the Government of Georgia under a new long-term program/campaign “Georgia, Europe” launched in 2019, with the objective to promote Georgia in Europe and Europe in Georgia through Arts and Culture.

The meeting began with the introductory statements of H.E. President Salome ZOURABICHILI and H.E. Prime Minister Mamuka BAKHTADZE as well as Ambassador Carl HARTZELL, Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia, Ms. Eliso BOLKVADZE, UNESCO Artist for Peace and Mr. Mikheil BATIASHVILI, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia. The focus was on how to make use of culture in international relations and whether culture should be used as a tool.

Three panels were held: “ Culture and Democracy: Changing Hearts and Minds”; “The Creative Economy - Linking Culture With Development Agenda on Local, Regional and National Level”; and “Georgia in Europe, Europe in Georgia: How Culture Can Make Georgia Punch Above Its Weight - The Recent Developments in Georgia’s Cultural Cooperation with Europe”.

A very interactive High Level Panel Discussion session which underlined the positivism of culture while discussing how culture plays a role in international relations also took place during the event. During his intervention, Ambassador Yenel pointed out that culture is not only about artistic developments, but about what the people of a country is based on; how they respond to events in which values such as tolerance, understanding, acceptance and empathy plays an important role.

Georgia mentioned its intention to have a follow up of this event.