



**PRESS RELEASE ON
CONFERENCE ON “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE BLACK SEA”
(Bucharest, 8-9 May 2019)**

The Conference was organized jointly by the Romanian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission. It brought together representatives from the marine and maritime sector, among them representatives from regional organizations and initiatives, universities, researchers, as well as from the NGO sector.

Opening addresses were delivered by Mr. Nicolae Hurduc, Minister for Research and Innovation of Romania, Mr. John Bell, on behalf of Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Mr. Emil Constantinescu, former President of Romania (1996-2000), Ambassador Michael B. Christides, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, as well as other several distinguished attendees.

Participants had the opportunity to present their respective activities and exchange ideas and proposals on how to further develop cooperation in the research and innovation sector in the Black Sea.

During the Conference, the “*Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea*” (SRIA) was launched by the six littoral Black Sea States and the Republic of Moldova (all BSEC Member States) to guide academia, funding agencies, industry, policy and society to address together the fundamental Black Sea challenges, to promote blue growth and economic prosperity of the Black Sea region, to build critical support systems and innovative research infrastructure as well as to improve education and capacity building.

The “*Bucharest Declaration*” was presented at the end of the Conference by the Romanian side (*the said Declaration is available at the “News from the BSEC” Section of the BSEC website, under the respective title*).