



**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE OFFICIAL START OF THE HELLENIC CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC  
(July – December 2019)**

The Hellenic 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 4 July 2019.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the B2 Directorate for Economic Relations with SE Europe, CIS and the BSEC countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

H.E. Dr. Ioannis BRACHOS, Secretary General for International Economic Relations of the Hellenic Foreign Ministry, presented the **Priorities of the Chairmanship** to the participants under the motto: “*Black Sea, Green Energy, Blue Growth*”. He underlined that the Hellenic Chairmanship will seek to further the economic cooperation among BSEC Member States in a sustainable manner and with due regard to the environment. He further stated that Greece will focus on the need of enhancing the project-oriented character of BSEC, in order to achieve a more pragmatic multilateral cooperation among the Organization’s Member States (the complete text of the priorities is available on the BSEC website).

The first highlight of the Chairmanship-in-Office will be the informal Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in New York in September 2019 in parallel with the United Nations General Assembly.

The First Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, H.E. Ambassador Selim Yenel, conveyed the best wishes of the Secretariat for the success and the fulfillment of the priorities announced by the Hellenic Chairmanship, reiterating that PERMIS will spare no effort to provide its full support and involvement during the entire period.

BSEC PERMIS highly welcomed the kind gesture of the Hellenic Chairmanship in presenting to the Secretariat the statue of Heracles - the divine hero in Greek mythology. The said statue is being displayed at the Headquarters.