



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE COORDINATION MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
*(Barcelona, 13 November 2019)*

The Coordination Meeting of the Regional Organizations, hosted by the Union for the Mediterranean (UmF) was held on 13 November 2019, in Barcelona.

The First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Selim Yenel attended this meeting on behalf of PERMIS. The other organizations that participated were the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

After an initial exchange on how each organization functioned there was a detailed discussion on the main agenda item: climate change. Without sounding alarmist the need for concerted action by international organizations was pointed out as the issue had not only political aspects but economic, social and commercial dimensions as well. With the melting of the Arctic, new trade routes were being created that would make old ones obsolete causing possible economic and social upheavals. With rising sea levels it is not only the islands that would be affected but also coastal cities and more and more regional cooperation is needed.

All the participants of the coordination meeting declared that they were ready for more joint projects as some have more access to funding. They further noted that main areas of convergence were connectivity, transport, maritime and the environment including the climate. It was agreed that focal points should be established to continue the relationship on a more regular basis.

It was agreed that BSEC will host the next Coordination Meeting of the Regional Organizations at its Headquarters, in year 2020.