



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE INFORMAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BSEC ORGANIZATION WITH**  
**THE COEST WORKING PARTY OF THE EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
*(Brussels, 6 December 2019)*

The informal annual meeting of the BSEC Organization with the COEST Working Party of the EU Council of Ministers (*The Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia*) was held in Brussels, on 6 December 2019.

The meeting was divided in five parts: (a) a guest speaker from the *Black Sea NGO Forum* made a presentation about their activities, (b) a representative of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office presented the priorities and activities of the latter, (c) the PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES portrayed the overall picture of BSEC PERMIS activities and, especially, the recent developments in its cooperation with the EU, (d) representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service described the EU's approach towards the Black Sea region, including recent and potential activities in the field of Blue Economy and Connectivity, (e) many participants exchanged views and proposals on the issues discussed.

During the last part of the event almost all of the participants took the floor and reiterated the significance and usefulness this annual informal meeting has recently acquired, providing a valuable and convenient framework for a regular overview of what has been achieved and for a useful exchange of views and proposals on further promoting the BSEC-EU cooperation in a balanced, practical and mutually agreeable way.

All the participants concurred that the relationship between BSEC and the EU has attained a level which has to be preserved and further enhanced, as a concrete contribution to the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region.

