



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE OFFICIAL START OF THE ALBANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC
(January – June 2021)**

The Albanian 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 online on 3 February 2021.

The Meeting was chaired by the Representative of the Albanian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, Mrs. Mimoza HALIMI, Director General at the General Directory of Political and Strategic Issues of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania.

Mrs. Mimoza HALIMI presented the priorities of the Chairmanship to the participants under Albania’s Chairmanship motto: “*Coming together for a sustainable post COVID era*”. She declared that the overriding objective would be to “increase the range of influence and targeted effects of BSEC for its Member States by...the continued improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization”.

Mrs. Mimoza outlined a number of **Sectoral Priorities**. In the economically vital area of **Tourism** the Albanian Chairmanship will “deepen efforts...to promote the whole of the BSEC region as a leading tourist destination worldwide”. They also aimed to “add variety such as gastronomic and medical tourism, or tourism based on the exploitation of the (common) historical past”.

On **Transport and Infrastructure**, the new Chairmanship will “continue the progress made by previous Chairmanships regarding the interconnectivity of BSEC’s Member States”. And “in this regard, Albania will further promote the efforts in compiling commonly accepted rules concerning transport and product regulations and border crossings by taking advantage of new technologies”.

On **Cultural Heritage** Albania pledges to “minimize the impact of climate change on our cultural heritage”, and on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** the Chairmanship will enhance “efforts for achieving a broader participation of Member States for the wider implementation of SDGs” and “identify and exchange the best practices” for this.

A key priority would be further **interaction between BSEC and the EU**. “The Albanian Chairmanship is fully, firmly and demonstrably determined to develop a closer interaction with the European Union, in order to achieve better oriented results in our common efforts to tackle the socio-economic pressure caused by the Covid Pandemic” said Mrs Mimoza.



The full text of the Albanian priorities is available on: <http://www.bsec-organization.org/chairmanship>.

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, conveyed the best wishes of the Secretariat for the success and fulfillment of the priorities announced by the Albanian Chairmanship, reiterating that PERMIS will spare no effort to provide its full support to it.