



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE 1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BLUE GROWTH IN THE BLACK SEA REGION: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ON RIVER – SEA MACRO-ECOSYSTEMS
(Constanta, 9-10 March 2020)

Invited by the organizers, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated at the “1st International Conference on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region: Ecosystem Services on River – Sea Macro-ecosystems”, which was held in the “Ovidius” University of Constanta on 9-10 March 2020.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES congratulated the organizers for hosting such an important, pertinent and timely event which deals with some of the most pressing issues the Black Sea region has to address and informed participants on the multifaceted efforts of PERMIS and the BSEC Member States to promote sustainable development solutions in the region by trying to implement the 2030 UN SDGs. He further underlined that in this endeavor, the establishment of the *BSEC Green Energy Network* and the adoption of the *BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*, as well as that of the *BSEC Green Energy Strategy* played a significant role. He also reminded of the support extended to the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki for the establishment of the *SDSN Black Sea*, as well as of the PERMIS initiative to propose the initial funding for the establishment of the Black Sea SDGs Observatory by the *Black Sea Project Promotion Facility* (BSPPF), a proposal endorsed by the latter’s Steering Committee recently.

A live video connection took place with **Professor Jeffrey SACHS PhD**, Special Counsellor to the UN Secretary General and Director of the *UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network* (SDSN), who, concerning the wider Black Sea region, underscored the important role that the BSEC Organization and the BSUN can play in further motivating Member States and in coordinating their relative efforts for achieving the best possible results. Among his many suggestions were that the *SDSN Black Sea* could promote the dialogue with the ***European Green Deal*** project, as this is a very important platform also for the Black Sea region. Professor SACHS also referred to the usefulness of cooperating with the Chinese B&RI, and underlined that Europe should insist on holding a pragmatic dialogue with China, the latter being today (after the “trade wars”, the Coronavirus and other adverse experiences) ready and eager to seriously engage in such a dialogue, in order to agree on mutually acceptable solutions and initiatives. Europe and the Black Sea region, he concluded, have only to gain from a balanced understanding with China.