



**PRESS RELEASE ON
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE
IRU, TRACECA, BSEC, TURKIC COUNCIL AND ECO**

(15 March 2021, Online)

On 15 March 2021 the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael. B. CHRISTIDES participated in the *High-Level Meeting of the Secretaries General of the following international organizations: the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA (PS IGC TRACECA), the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS), the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)*. The online event was initiated by the IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de PRETTO, with the aim to address the pressing issues related to the negative impact of Covid-19 on the road transport sector.

The Secretaries General took stock of the above issues on a global and regional level, exchanged information on the status of implementation of recovery measures promoted by governments and discussed on the possibilities of formulating a joint action plan, which will be brought to the attention of the highest governmental level in the regions.

During his intervention Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, underlined that since the beginning of the pandemic the BSEC PERMIS has covered considerable ground on the issue by actively coordinating efforts with its transport partner organizations, first of all, with IRU and BSEC-URTA and, especially, by informing the respective national Authorities of the BSEC Member States about recent developments, underlining the importance of facilitating transport connectivity in the BSEC Region. Among other, the Secretary General emphasized the lack of effective global and regional coordination and agreed to consult with BSEC Member States on the possibility of creating a network of designated focal points among the participating international organizations, in order to achieve enhanced coordination among the latter.

The High-Level Meeting concluded with the endorsement by the participating Secretaries General of the *Joint Statement*, which includes an urgent call to governments for providing impactful actions that will allow the road transport industry to drive the economic recovery post-Covid-19.