



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE
BSEC DAY AND GOI PEACE AWARD

25 June 2021

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation celebrated BSEC Day and its 29th year in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the wider Black Sea region, at a reception held aboard the “Sevgi and Barış” cruise boat of the Sarıyer Municipality, on 25 June 2021.

This year the BSEC has also been honored with the 2021 Multilateral Peace Award by the prestigious Goi Peace Foundation in recognition of its outstanding contribution to promoting multilateralism and fostering a culture of peace. Mr. Patrick Uwe Petit, Representative to the United Nations, Goi Peace Foundation European Representative, presented the peace award certificate to BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. Chistides, during the reception, held while sailing along the Bosphorus towards the Black Sea.

Following the unveiling of a 'Peace Pole' to be sited at the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul inscribed with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth", both the Secretary General and Mr. Petit, made short speeches emphasizing the importance of regional peace and the contribution of organizations like BSEC to this goal.

The Secretary General added that the BSEC Organization has consistently dedicated itself to promoting dialogue, peace and understanding among its Member States in a region often characterized by various challenges. He thanked his colleagues at BSEC PERMIS, both past and present, for their hard work which has led to the award.

The reception, attended by the Mayor of Sarıyer Municipality, Consuls General, representatives of international organizations, as well as other prominent guests and BSEC PERMIS staff and families, also marked a farewell event for Ambassador Michael B. Christides, who after successfully serving six years in the BSEC Organization, is handing over the post of Secretary General to Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, former Foreign Minister of Romania.