



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 43rd MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Online, 30 June 2021)**

The 43rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the BSEC was held online on 30 June 2021. H.E. Ms. Olta Xhaçka, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania and the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, chaired the meeting hosted by PERMIS.

In addition to Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners also participated at the Council Meeting.

At the opening, the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides presented a brief overview of the activities and achievements of the Secretariat during his two term tenure at the helm of the PERMIS coming to an end with the Council meeting. He also offered insight on the possible requisites to render the Organization more effective and efficient, following the experience acquired during his mandate.

The Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Secretaries of State made statements on issues regarding the latest developments in the region, within the Organization as well as bilateral issues and praised the successful Albanian Chairmanship under the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid 19 pandemic. They also expressed their appreciation for the valuable contributions of the outgoing Secretary General to the work of the Secretariat and promoting the interests and image of the Organization.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues on the agenda of the Organization. One of the main decisions being the Appointment of Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania to the position of BSEC PERMIS Secretary General for a three year term starting as of 1 July 2021. Member States extended a warm welcome to the incoming Secretary General and expressed their support for a successful mandate.

Other issues adopted during the Ministerial included (a) organizational and financial issues (b) the renewal of the Observer status of the Federal Republic of Germany, Italian Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, and the SDP status of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF), (c) the framework for the BSEC e-Commerce Cooperation (d) the state of cooperation in various sectoral areas; the appointment of Country-Coordinators to BSEC



Working Groups; the interaction between BSEC and its Related Bodies and the appointment of an Executive Manager.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Republic of Albania handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to Georgia which assumes the Chairmanship as of 1 July 2021, for a period of six months until 31 December 2021.