



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM 2021

(30 September - 1 October 2021, Online)

Upon the invitation by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia and the Kutaisi City Municipality, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU, participated in the Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, which was held online, 29 September - 1 October 2021.

This year's Forum, organized in online format, focused on "*Resilient and Sustainable Cultural Routes - Innovating Out of Crisis*". It was attended by representatives of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, of the 45 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and candidate networks to the certification, International Organizations (such as EU, UNESCO, UNWTO, ETC, OEI), local and regional authorities, along with academics and experts from the culture and tourism industry.

Addressing the Forum, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General emphasized the cultural and ethnical diversity of the Black Sea region, its rich historical and architectural heritage as well its diverse natural resources and beautiful and dramatic landscape. It is therefore only natural that BSEC PERMIS is open to collaborate closely with the EPA and other interested partners in order to fully capitalize on the potential for enhancing cultural tourism in and among the BSEC Member States.

It is herewith reminded that the "*Letter of Intent on cooperation between the BSEC PERMIS and the Secretariat of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe*" entered into force on 6 April 2020. On June 2021, the EPA granted the BSEC Organization "*Participative Status*", as a further recognition of the role and performance of the BSEC in the field of cultural heritage and in promoting intercultural dialogue and better understanding in the Black Sea region and beyond.