



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE 12th TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FORUM

Invited by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Turkey, the BSEC PERMIS participated in the *12th Transport and Communication Forum* held in Istanbul on 6-8 October 2021.

The Forum which gathered ministers in charge of transport and communications, heads of international organizations, representatives of leading associations, unions and institutions of the sector, focused this year on Logistics-Mobility-Digitalization, addressing current situation and dynamics, future plans, foresights, as well as on targets and policies of transport and communications sectors in the world and Turkey.

The Forum started with the Opening session where H.E. Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF), H.E. Mr. Adil Karaismailođlu, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim, Former Speaker of Grand National Assembly and Prime Minister of Turkey, delivered their welcoming speeches.

At the Roundtable Meeting on 6 October, ministers and heads of international organizations participating in the Forum discussed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the transportation and logistics sector, cooperation opportunities, regional problems and solution proposals.

Addressing the ministerial session, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu underlined that Transport Connectivity, which is essential to facilitate movements of goods, services and people and plays a significant role in the social and economic development of BSEC Member States, is high on the agenda of the BSEC Organization, and that the experience shows clearly that improving connectivity constitutes a key factor for growth and will bring clear benefits for the region's economies and citizens.

On 7 October Ambassador Chebeleu also participated as a speaker in TransportTech Session on Digitalization, with the presentation on «*BSEC perspective: Role of digitalization in the development of road transport*». In his speech during the session the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General particularly emphasized that there is no alternative to digitalization and automation of procedures for international transport and, in this context, the BSEC Organization fully supports the efforts aimed at implementing e-TIR, e-CMR for the international



road transport of goods in the BSEC Region and e-Visa for professional drivers from the BSEC Member States.

On 7 October Mr. Sergii Kravchenko, BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator, participated in the Meeting of General Directorates in charge of Road Transport and acquainted the participants with the BSEC activities aimed at facilitating border-crossings in the BSEC Region, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic. The participants were also informed on the implementation of the Project «BSEC PERMIT System», as a useful tool in the international transport of goods. In this regard, it was stressed that the constantly growing number of the BSEC Permits used in the participating Member States confirms the significant results achieved in this field of BSEC cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Ambassador Chebeleu and Mr. Kravchenko held informal meetings with the Secretaries General of ITF, IRU, BSEC-URTA and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, addressed the participants of the 12th Transport and Communication Forum in the special session on 8 October.