



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE WORKING VISIT OF
THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL TO TBILISI**

In the framework of the current BSEC Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office (01.07.2021 to 31.12.2021), the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, accompanied by the Legal Advisor Ms. Nino Kajaia, paid a working visit to Tbilisi, on 18 October 2021.

During his stay in Tbilisi Ambassador Lazar Comanescu was received by the Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia H.E. Mr. David Zalkaliani. The Director of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations Mr. Noshrevan Lomtadze and the BSEC PERMIS Legal Advisor Ms. Kajaia were also present at the meetings.

The visit provided an opportunity to review the activities held thus far under the priorities of the Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office and to further discuss issues pertaining to important events in the period ahead, including the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the Organization. The meeting with the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of close cooperation between Georgia and the BSEC and the organization's role in the Black Sea Region.

During the meeting, H.E. Mr. Zalkaliani underlined that Georgia attaches great importance to the BSEC Organization and appreciates the significant role it plays in the geostrategic region of the Black Sea, and reiterated his Government's support on this score.

The issues of increasing the efficiency of the Organization and pursuing the project oriented activities of the PERMIS as well as the importance of the regional transport projects to further the objectives and interests of the BSEC were also addressed. The Parties emphasized that BSEC is an excellent platform for the Black Sea countries to strengthen their economic partnership and internal regional cooperation.

The Secretary General also had a working lunch with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Alexander Khvtisiashvili. During the lunch two sides expanded their deliberations on the future activities of BSEC to further increase the efficiency as well as the visibility of the Organization.

Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, was later received by the Chair of the Committee of Culture of the Parliament of Georgia H.E. Ms. Eliso Bolkvadze. During the meeting the possibility of organizing the Batumi Black Sea Art Festival as one of the 30th Anniversary event of the BSEC Organization was discussed.

The working visit was held in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.