



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE VISIT OF H.E. MR. ALEXANDER PANKIN,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Alexander Pankin, accompanied by the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul Mr. Andrey Buravov, Ms. Anna Klyukhina Alternate Head of Division, Department of Economic Cooperation, and Mr. Artem Timoshchenko Attache at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul, visited the BSEC Headquarters on 20 October 2021 for consultations with the BSEC PERMIS.

The Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu headed the BSEC PERMIS delegation composed of his Deputies Ambassador Ebru Barutçu Gökdenizler, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu and Dr. Sergei Goncharenko. The BSEC PERMIS Legal Advisor and respective Executive Managers were also present at various stages during the meeting.

A broad range of issues relating to the activities of BSEC, particularly in view of the forthcoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation during the second half of 2022, were discussed. Among others, preparations for the 30th Anniversary of the BSEC next year, further enhancing the efficiency of the Organization, its project-oriented activities, broader cooperation with BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Observers. Financial, budgetary, administrative and personnel issues were also discussed. Both sides agreed that a working visit of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General to Moscow to meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, before the end of the year, would be most useful.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General has expressed high appreciation for the very timely visit of Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Pankin, which was a most eloquent demonstration of the importance that Russia attaches to the Organization.