



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA

The **Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA** was held on 21 October 2021 via videoconference.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Hristo Alexiev, Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, who took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the IGC TRACECA, held by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

General statements were made by the representatives of the States Parties to the *Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor (MLA)*, informing on the work done for the implementation of the previous decisions and recommendations of the IGC TRACECA.

The representatives of various international and regional organizations as well as Observer States of IGC TRACECA made also statements during the Meeting.

In his statement, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between BSEC and TRACECA, aimed especially at ensuring the complementarity of their activities. He underlined the importance of regional projects, focusing mainly on the Project «*BSEC PERMIT System*», as a useful tool in the international transport of goods, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. 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.

Among the major decisions adopted during the Meeting were the approval of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for the development of the International transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for 2022-2026; the Harmonized Conditions for the Transport of Goods under the spread of the coronavirus infection pandemic (Covid-19); Concept for the Development of Container Transport up to 2030; Methodology for Identification of the Routes of the International Transport Corridor TRACECA, etc.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA concluded with the adoption of its Final Resolutions and the *Sofia Declaration*, containing guidelines for the further development of the transport corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia.