



**PRESS RELEASE**

**ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL  
AMBASSADOR LAZAR COMANESCU IN THE 6TH UNION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL FORUM AND THE  
24TH SESSION OF THE UNWTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated, upon the invitation of Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, as key note speaker on sustainable economic recovery in the 6<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum which took place in Barcelona on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. He also attended, upon the invitation by the UNWTO Secretary General Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNWTO General Assembly held in Madrid from 30 November to 3 December 2021.

In his address to the participants to the UfM Forum, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General made a presentation of the BSEC and its activities, highlighting the main actions and initiatives of the Organization directed at the support of the economic growth in and cooperation among the countries in the area, with special emphasis on promotion of investments and trade.

During his participation in the event, Ambassador Comanescu had bilateral working meetings with the Secretary General of the UfM, Mr. Nasser Kamel, respectively with Mr. Dimitris N. Dimitriadis, President of REX section of the European Economic and Social Committee. Prospects for further strengthening the cooperation between BSEC and each of the abovementioned Organizations have been discussed on this occasion.

As to the UNWTO General Assembly, mention is to be made that more than 1,000 participants from 135 countries, including 84 ministers and deputy ministers of tourism, representatives of international organizations, as well as leaders from the private sector and civil society, gathered at the most important meeting of the supreme governing body of the UNWTO to analyze the future of the strategic sector for many countries badly hit by the pandemic, with a view to relaunching and leading a sustainable tourism recovery. In line with the UNWTO's core priorities, the General Assembly focused on building for the future through innovation, education and tourism for rural development.

On this occasion, Ambassador Lazar Comanescu met with the UNWTO Secretary General Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili to discuss ways and opportunities to enhance and further expand the very fruitful partnership already established between the two Organizations. Against this backdrop, the interlocutors agreed that in the coming period, the relevant liaison officers will communicate to go through a number of issues related to their cooperation in order to find untapped potentials for further improvement of working relations arising from the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in October 2014. Ambassador Comanescu warmly congratulated Mr. Pololikashvili on his re-election as the Secretary General of the UNWTO for a second term.