



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

Upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, paid a working visit to Moscow on 8-10 December 2021, organized in the framework of the forthcoming Russian Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC (second half of 2022) and of the 30th BSEC Anniversary.

Secretary General Lazar Comanescu and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had a working meeting on 8 December, to which Deputy Minister Aleksander Pankin and Deputy Secretary General of PERMIS Sergei Goncharenko also attended.

Ambassador Comanescu thanked Mr. Lavrov for his kind invitation and expressed his appreciation for the importance that the Russian authorities give to the BSEC and for their support and contribution to the Organization. The forthcoming 30th Anniversary of BSEC and possible ways for further increasing the efficiency of the work of the Organization were the main topics discussed.

Ambassador Comanescu while referring to the prospects of the organization of a BSEC Summit, in June 2022, advanced some suggestions on where BSEC's activity may, in his opinion, be improved such as: a longer term approach, strengthening the project-oriented dimension of the activity; enhancing the role of BSEC Business Council etc.

Minister Lavrov fully endorsed the idea of the organization of a BSEC Summit and adoption of a Declaration thereby. He also agreed with the need for strengthening the involvement of the business communities, respectively of revitalizing the BSEC Business Council as well as of strengthening the project-oriented approach of BSEC. He brought to the attention, in this context, that the Economic Agenda of the Organization needs to be updated, as much has changed since its adoption in 2012.

Both sides agreed on the importance of depoliticization of BSEC's activity and of the need to concentrate it on actions and projects aimed at the economic cooperation and development in the region.

The program of Secretary General's visit to Moscow included meetings with other several high level Russian officials, namely: Mr. Alexander Babakov, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; Ms. Natalia Bocharova, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Science of Russia; Mr. Igor Zubov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.



Ambassador Comanescu also met high representatives of the Russian entrepreneurial community: Mr. Vladimir Padalko, Vice-President for International Affairs of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation; Mr. Artem Chaika, President and CEO of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE); and Mr. Sergey Krasilnikov, Vice-President Director of the Department of International Bilateral Cooperation of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

During the working visit, Ambassador Comanescu also delivered a lecture at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.