



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE MARINE LITTER ACTION FORUM**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the Marine Litter Action Forum within the "*Black Sea CONNECT Project: Coordination of Marine and Maritime Research and Innovation in the Black Sea*", which took place on 14-15 November 2022 in Istanbul.

The main objective of the two-day event was to present the actions already in place for existing and new initiatives and projects in order to best coordinate all efforts toward paving the way for future cutting-edge actions on marine litter pollution in the Black Sea.

In his welcome speech, the Secretary General stressed the fact that measures aiming at mitigating the threats posed by plastic marine litter for the environment and human life remain a pressing issue for the region. He also pointed out that stronger multilateral cooperation and more effective institutions are highly needed and the BSEC Organization is ready to do its part in that regard.

Ms. Rositsa Stoeva, Executive Manager in charge of project management in PERMIS also participated in the Forum and contributed to the debates there of, with particular emphasis on the "Pilot Activities on Fighting Micro Plastics and Marine Litter in the Black Sea" or Black Sea React! Project, co-funded by the European Commission and managed by PERMIS since January 2021.

Around 150 people participated in the event.

More detailed information related to the project activities can be found here: <http://connect2blacksea.org/>