



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE 12th INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA SYMPOSIUM**

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) organized its 12th Black Sea Symposium on 22 November 2022 in Athens in dedication to: “30 Years of Black Sea Economic Cooperation”.

In his opening remarks, ICBSS Director General Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, highlighted the role of BSEC as the most representative institutional form of cooperation in the wider Black Sea area and its contribution to the stability and growth of the countries of the region.

The keynote speech was delivered by BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu. While reviewing the activities of the Organization during its 30 years of existence, the Secretary General formulated a set of considerations with regard to BSEC’s priorities and role in the years to come. The contribution of the Organization to the cooperation in the wider Black Sea area was highlighted in this context. The relevance and contribution of BSEC Related Bodies (the Parliamentary Assembly – PABSEC, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank – BSTDB, the ICBSS and the BSEC Business Council - BSECBC) in promoting the objectives of the Organization as well as the importance of the cooperation with international and regional organizations and with Observers and Sectoral Partners were also highlighted.

Among the participants of the Symposium were the PABSEC Secretary General, Mr. Asaf Hajiyev; BSTDB Vice President, Mr. Valeriy Platnytsky, BSEC PERMIS former Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. Christides; ICBSS Former Director General, Prof. Dr. Yannis Papanikolaou, as well as policy-makers, academics, civil society representatives and researchers primarily from the countries of the wider Black Sea area and the EU member states.