



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE 85th SESSION OF THE UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The BSEC PERMIS participated at the 85th Session of the UNECE *Inland Transport Committee* (ITC), which took place in Geneva, on 21-24 February 2023.

The meeting consisted of a Ministerial segment, dedicated to “*Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change*” and several high-level panel debates, focused on critical policy and regulatory issues of direct relevance to the challenge of tackling climate change for ITC and its subsidiary bodies. The implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030 was also reviewed.

In his statement in the Ministerial segment, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu highlighted the fact that strengthening cooperation for the protection of the environment has become one of the priorities in the activities of the BSEC Organization, in particular, in the sector of transport. He mentioned in this context that the endorsement of the *Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea* by the riparian countries in May 2019, has created a new dynamic in the region and established a platform for the preservation and restoration of the environment, for the development of blue and green economies and building a greener and more environmentally friendly transport system. The Secretary General stressed the importance of enhancing the correlation and coordination among the international/regional organizations active in the area, as well as the project-oriented dimension of their activity. He suggested in this context, that a better use of inland water transportation potential, such as the one of Danube River, would not only be beneficial in terms of costs, but will significantly help in protecting the environment.

The High-level policy segment was concluded with the endorsement of the Ministerial Declaration on “*Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change*”, which takes stock of the worsening global climate change and articulates the urgent call for harnessing the full potential of inland transport on issues relevant to the Committee’s mandates.

On the sidelines of the 85th Session of the UNECE ITC Ambassador Comanescu had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary, where a fruitful exchange of views took place on the prospects for further enhancing BSEC-UNECE cooperation based on the Cooperation Agreement, signed in 2001.



The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General also met with Mr. Anour Benazzouz, President of the *International Road Federation (IRF)*, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of the *International Road Transport Union (IRU)*, Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary General of the *International Transport Forum (ITF)*, Mr. Steve Phillips, Secretary General of the *Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR)*, and Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the *Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA*. Ways and means for further deepening the interaction with the respective organizations were explored during those meetings.