



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE VISIT OF BSEC PERMIS OFFICIALS
TO KAHRAMANMARAŞ, THE EPICENTRE OF THE EARTHQUAKE

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu accompanied by First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Merve Kavakcı and Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis visited on 16 March 2023 the city of Kahramanmaraş which was at the center of the recent catastrophic earthquakes that hit south-eastern Turkey.

During his visit the BSEC Secretary General together with his accompanying delegation visited the Karacasu container city where he had the opportunity to get acquainted with the magnitude of the needs and the important challenges linked with them. Ambassador Comanescu also visited the Kahramanmaraş United Nations Office where he was briefed on their important coordinating role of humanitarian assistance.

The BSEC Secretary General was received by the Governor of Kahramanmaraş Mr. Ömer Coşkun, and the Mayor of Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality Mr. Hayrettin Güngör, who informed on the extend of the disaster and the huge efforts exerted by the local and governmental authorities to meet the extensive needs that arose from a natural disaster in such an unprecedented scale. The Secretary General assured his interlocutors of BSEC's solidarity with the people of these areas and the Turkish authorities in their efforts to overcome the results of this natural disaster. Aid provided by the BSEC Member States was underlined. The BSEC itself provided about 1 million TL (50.000 €) to AFAD and stressed that BSEC would further research ways and means of helping the people to get over with the consequences. The Secretary General expressed appreciation for the way the Turkish Government is handling the situation and expressed confidence that the people will overcome this tragedy and will soon get back to normal mode of living.