



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
AT THE DANUBE BASIN LIGHTHOUSE EVENT

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the launch event of the Danube Basin Lighthouse held in Bucharest, on 3 April 2023.

As part of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters", the Lighthouse Projects are hubs and platforms supporting the development and deployment of transformative innovative solutions in all forms – technological, social, business, governance, ensuring fast progress towards important transformative impact on society in the river and sea basins through science and technology. It aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments by cross-cutting enabling actions. The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based “lighthouses” in major sea/river basins: Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea.

The Secretary General, in his address to the event laid out the importance of such actions in the Danube River, the most important river that flows into the Black Sea, which is one of the most polluted seas in Europe. He also highlighted the work BSEC is doing for the environment of the Black Sea and its basin. For this purpose, a number of joint projects financed by the European Commission and other international organizations and institutions are implemented by BSEC PERMIS, such as “Black Sea CONNECT”, “Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre”, “BRIDGE”, “ARSINOE”, “REST-COAST”, or are in a preparation phase, such as “Blueing the Black Sea”, cooperation with GEF and World Bank, with the aim of restoring the environment and sustaining the blue and green economies of the region.

Other BSEC projects, such as the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, are also expected to contribute to the development of reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, supporting the growth of trade among the countries of the region.

Highlighting the importance of transport in general also in terms of sustainability and of a climate friendly environment, Ambassador Comanescu stressed the need of a coordinated effort towards transforming the Danube River into a genuine permanent European West-East water transportation corridor and through the Black Sea into a most efficient Europe-Caucasus-Asia link.