



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT OF
THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe on 10 May 2023, in Luxembourg.

Composed of 38 Member States, the EPA Governing Board is the governing body that meets once a year to award the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, examine Cultural Routes under evaluation and candidate networks, and discuss other issues related to their work and activities.

In his address to the meeting, the Secretary General, while expressing his appreciation for the close cooperation that has been developed between BSEC and EPA, informed the Board on the joint efforts and initiatives promoted and implemented over the last three years. He emphasized in this context the relevance of Cultural Routes, highlighting the cultural values of the BSEC area and of the role cultural diplomacy has in promoting those values and better understanding. While praising the active participation of the BSEC Member States in EPA activities, Ambassador Comanescu pointed to the potential and readiness for the promotion of various authentic cultural routes with a clear connection to the cultural assets of the region, such as the route of Black Sea coastal cuisine, the route of crafts and carpet making, or one based on common tradition and hospitality, and briefed on the relevant actions of PERMIS in this respect.

On the sidelines of the event, Ambassador Comanescu had a bilateral meeting with the Executive Secretary of the EPA, Mr. Stefano Dominioni where ways and opportunities were discussed to further enhance and expand the very fruitful partnership already established between the two Organizations. He also met with Mr. Bruno Rossignol, Head of Climate and Heritage Program of the European Investment Bank to exchange views on prospects for future BSEC-EIB cooperation in the area of cultural heritage. Exchanges took place as well with high-level delegates from the BSEC Member States Such as Greece, Moldova, Türkiye, etc.