



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE
ON THE 13th INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA SYMPOSIUM

The **13th International Black Sea Symposium** organized by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) took place in Athens, on 2 November 2023, in the context of the 25th Anniversary of the Centre. The generic topic of this edition was: *“The Black Sea in crises: challenges and opportunities in an unstable environment”*.

The Symposium was opened by the ICBSS Director General Mr. Giorgios Mitrakos, and consisted of three consecutive panels dedicated to regional cooperation, economic cooperation and climate change.

The more than seventy participants included the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu; PABSEC Secretary General Mr. Asaf Hajiyev; Head of the OECD Istanbul Centre Mr. Achraf Bouali; President of Hungarian Institute of International Affairs Mr. Gladden Pappin; and the Secretary General of EURISPES Institute Mr. Marco Ricceri. Ambassadors and other diplomats accredited in Athens, 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 also attended the event.

In his contribution to the Symposium, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General focused on the importance of strong economic relations and regional cooperation in promoting economic development, stability, mutual understanding and good neighbourly relations.