



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 5TH EDITION OF THE BALKANS AND BLACK SEA FORUM:
“TRADING ARTERIES AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AT STAKE”**

BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis participated in the 5th Edition of the Balkans and Black Sea Forum: “Trading Arteries and Global Supply Chains at stake” organized in Piraeus on 15 February 2024, by the Balkans and Black Sea Forum (BBSF) in cooperation with the Embassy of China in Greece.

The Forum was dedicated to recent challenges related to trading arteries & global supply chains, with the aim to provide an opportunity to exchange views on the impact of the recent crises in the Middle East and Ukraine on global trade routes and arteries as well as on the economies of many countries in the respective regions. The Forum was structured around two key thematic panels: «Geopolitics, Regional Cooperation and Port Hubs in the Mediterranean» and «New Order and Trends in regional connectivity». The discussions underlined the vulnerability of international trade and transport arteries and stressed the importance of collective efforts through cooperation and dialogue for overcoming the current difficulties.

In his intervention, Ambassador Rallis, stressed among other that recent events in the Red Sea and the wider Middle East have caused considerable delays in the East-West maritime trade and significant additional costs. He said BSEC projects in the transport sector constitute a very important regional contribution to the extension of Trans-European Networks and the development of Euro-Asian transport links. In this framework, he joined the Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum (ITF) Dr. Young Tae Kim, who referred to the importance of the Middle Corridor.