



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE 86<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

On 20-23 February 2024 the BSEC PERMIS participated at the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNECE *Inland Transport Committee* (ITC), which took place in Geneva.

The meeting consisted of a Ministerial segment, dedicated to “*Taking ambitious climate action – Moving towards decarbonized inland transport by 2050*”, which discussed necessary policy, regulatory and institutional approaches to move towards decarbonization of inland transport, and several high-level panel debates, focused on critical policy and regulatory issues of direct relevance to the challenge of tackling climate change for ITC and its subsidiary bodies.

In his statement in the Ministerial segment, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu highlighted the fact that the protection of the environment has been high on the agenda of the BSEC Organization, not least in the sector of transports which has a lot to do with the efforts aimed at finding climate and environmental solutions for the Sustainable Development. He mentioned in this context that the updated *BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area*, adopted by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in December 2023, is particularly focused on enhancing the climate change dimension and developing adaptation measures to cope with its negative impacts. He reiterated in this context the need for coordinated efforts and political will of governments to adjust their transport policies in line with new demands and to increase the capacity of countries in dealing with the climate change challenges.

The High-level segment concluded with the endorsement by participating Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the *High-level Statement of Support to the adoption of the ITC Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport*.

On the sidelines of the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNECE ITC Ambassador Comanescu had a **bilateral meeting** with the UNECE Executive Secretary, Ms. Tatiana Molcean, with the aim to further explore possibilities for expanding and deepening cooperation, based on the Cooperation Agreement between UNECE and BSEC, signed in 2001. Both sides expressed their interest in further strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations, in particular in such areas as Transport, Environment, Sustainable Energy, Trade and Customs Matters, and agreed to continue their consultations to this end, with a focus on possible joint projects.

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General also had **bilateral exchanges** with: Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary General of the *International Transport Forum* (ITF); Mr. Anour Benazzouz, President of the *International Road Federation* (IRF); Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of the *International Road Transport Union* (IRU) and Mr. Yuwei Li, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division. Ways and means for further deepening the interaction with the respective organizations were explored during those meetings.