



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON “NAVIGATING NEW HORIZONS: DIGITAL DIPLOMACY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”**

A conference on “Navigating New Horizons: Digital Diplomacy for a Sustainable Future” was jointly organized in Barcelona, on 24-26 April 2024, by the German Federal Foreign Office, BSEC PERMIS and Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat.

The aim of the conference, first of this kind, was to bring together leaders, diplomats, experts and stakeholders to engage in discussions on the interface between digital diplomacy and sustainable development. Representatives from 21 countries participated in the event.

Opening addresses were delivered by the Secretaries General of BSEC and UFM, as well as by the Representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his intervention, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, informed briefly about the activities of the Organization and its role in promoting the economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area. He highlighted in this context the importance of the adoption in December 2023, of the updated “BSEC Economic Agenda Towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area”, and of the fact that digitalization has been given particular attention there in. He further elaborated on concrete initiatives and projects developed within BSEC in pursuing digitalization.

Within the conference, a special panel on Black Sea was organized in order to provide a more focused discussion about the role of the BSEC Organization in enabling regional cooperation in digitalization and sustainability, as well as to give some good examples from our region. Experts from Georgia, Türkiye and PERMIS contributed to the discussion, which was moderated by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).