



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (EPA)

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the annual meeting of EPA Governing Board held in Luxembourg, on 21-22 May 2024.

Participants were high officials and experts of the EPA Member States as well as representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, and of EPA partners.

As in previous years, this year's edition covered a large number of topics, including the presentation of the Activity Report for 2023 and the Draft Program for the current year, the certification and evaluation of Cultural Routes and candidate networks. The preparation of the 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes (Visegrad, Hungary, 25-27 September 2024) was also discussed.

Addressing the meeting the Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, focused on the recent activities carried on within the BSEC in terms of culture and cultural tourism. He emphasized the importance of the adoption in December 2023 of the updated "BSEC Economic Agenda towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area", highlighting the fact that special attention was paid there in to the deepening and promoting of regional cooperation in the field of culture, including the encouragement and further development of cultural tourist routes in the region.

In the margins of the meeting a Letter of Intent on Cooperation between the BSEC PERMIS and the Iter Vitis Federation was signed by BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, and Ms. Emanuela Panke, President of Iter Vitis, to provide a framework for closer collaboration on the promotion of gastronomy, wine culture and traditions of the wider Black Sea region.

Ambassador Comanescu also met with Mr. Bruno Rossignol, Head of Climate and Heritage Program of the European Investment Bank (EIB), to exchange views on possible cooperation in safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Black Sea region. A brief exchange of views took place as well with Mr. Stefano Dominiononi, Executive Secretary of the EPA, on further strengthening the already fruitful BSEC-EPA cooperation.