



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ON THE BSEC PERMIS PARTICIPATION IN THE ITF 2024 ANNUAL SUMMIT**

Upon invitation by the Lithuanian Presidency of the International Transport Forum (ITF) and of the ITF Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, participated in the ITF Annual Summit, held in Leipzig, on 22 - 24 May 2024.

The main topic of the Summit was *Greening Transport: Keeping Focus in Times of Crisis*, respectively transport sector's role in environmental sustainability, in facing climate challenges as well as geopolitical crises. Particular attention was given, in this context, to how decision-makers can maintain a long-term policy focus while using opportunities, such as cleaner and automated vehicles, as well as advancements in mobility, logistics and digital solutions – to promote a greener, accessible, and more resilient transport sector.

Addressing the Open Ministerial Session of the Summit, Ambassador Comanescu referred to BSEC's activities and objectives in the area of transport highlighting the particular attention given, as also underlined in the recently updated BSEC Economic Agenda, to environment and climate related issues.

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 importance of increased coordination and correlation among the international/regional organizations was highlighted as well.

On the sidelines of the Summit Ambassador Comanescu had bilateral exchanges with several high level participants: Young Tae Kim, ITF Secretary General; Tatiana Molceanu, UNECE Executive Secretary; Radu Dinescu and Umberto de Pretto, President respectively Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU); François Davenne, Director General of the International Union of Railways (UIC); Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General of TRACECA; Suzanna Zammataro, Director General of the International Road Federation (IRF); Achraf Bouali, Head of OECD Istanbul Centre. The interlocutors discussed ways and means for further deepening the cooperation in the area of transport between BSEC and the respective organizations.