



PRESS RELEASE

**PARTICIPATION OF BSEC PERMIS IN THE 11TH ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM ON
CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(Chania, Greece, 5-7 October 2022)**

A special high level BSEC-ICBS Session dedicated to “*Promoting Cultural Diplomacy in the wider Black Sea Region: the Role of Cultural Routes*” was held in the framework of the 11th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe which took place on 5-7 October 2022 in Chania (Crete, Greece).

The Session, organized by BSEC PERMIS and ICBSS in cooperation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Greek cultural and tourism authorities offered a most appropriate opportunity to highlight the relevance of the cultural values of the BSEC area and of the role cultural diplomacy has in promoting those values and better understanding of BSEC Region and its cultural identity. Possibilities and modalities of how the cultural capital of the Black Sea region can best be promoted and valued have been discussed in this context. BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU participated in the session as keynote speaker. Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS, Director General of the ICBSS and representatives of the host country as well as from BSEC region and beyond were also contributors to the debate.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU made a presentation of the BSEC Organization and its activities with particular emphasis on the initiatives related to cultural diplomacy, respectively to the promotion of the unique cultural heritage, diversity and multiculturalism of the BSEC region.

On the margin of the Forum, the Secretary General also had bilateral working meetings with Mrs. Lina MENDONI, Minister of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic, and Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.