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PRESS RELEASE
ON
THE PRIORITIES OF THE ROMANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC

The Secretary of State for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania H.E. Mr. George CIAMBA, representing the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, presented the priorities of the Chairmanship to the representatives of the BSEC Member States, Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners, at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 6 July 2015.

Secretary of State H.E. Mr. CIAMBA was welcomed by the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, who underlined the long professional experience of H.E. Mr. CIAMBA with the Organization itself and with some of its Member States, a fact auguring very positively for the fulfillment of the priorities the Romanian Chairmanship has identified to promote.

In his statement at the BSEC Headquarters, Secretary of State H.E. Mr. CIAMBA stated that the primary task sought by the Chairmanship is to ensure that intergovernmental economic cooperation brings its due share to the sustainable development and stability of the region.

Under the motto "Building Stability, Enhancing Connectivity", the Romanian Chairmanship will contribute to the economic development of the BSEC area through promoting regional inter-connectivity. In this regard, the Chairmanship will work towards enhancing infrastructure connectivity as well as soft connectivity in the region in the fields of transport, combatting organized crime and tax evasion, environmental protection and energy.

The Romanian Chairmanship will also strive to revitalize economic cooperation and achieve concrete results, keeping the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012 as a guideline for action.

Secretary of State H.E. Mr. CIAMBA underlined that the Romanian Chairmanship will aim to increase the profile and the relevance of the Organization for its Member States, by making an effort to review and adapt its activities to the current needs of regional

cooperation. In this respect, he added that the primary objective pursued will be the continued improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization.

One of the main priorities of the Chairmanship will remain the further development and enhancement of BSEC-EU interaction, with the objective of supporting a closer, balanced and mutually beneficial cooperation between BSEC and the European Union. The Chairmanship also envisages to further substantiate the interaction of BSEC with its Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

During its term, the Romanian Chairmanship will start the reflection process regarding the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Organization in 2017. The Chairmanship aims to involve all Member States, particularly the incoming Chairmanships, to team up and to deliver a blueprint on how to make BSEC work better in the future.

Transport, combatting organized crime, energy, environmental protection, trade and economic development, cooperation in tourism as well as healthcare and pharmaceuticals have been identified as the sectoral priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship.

As is known, Romania has assumed the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC as of 1 July 2015, for a term of six months ending on 31 December 2015. During this period, the Romanian Chairmanship envisages to implement a comprehensive calendar of events which is expected to contribute to enhancing regional cooperation in a number of key areas. The formal and informal meetings of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as the meetings of the Ministers of Transport and the Interior constitute the highlights of the calendar of events of the Romanian Chairmanship.



H.E. Mr. George CIAMBA, Secretary of State for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, announcing the priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC (BSEC Headquarters, 6 July 2015).