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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE COURTESY VISIT OF  
THE CONSUL GENERAL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
TO THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL**

The newly appointed Consul General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul Mr. Andrey PODELYSHEV paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, on 2 September 2015. During his visit to the BSEC headquarters, the Consul General was accompanied by Attaché Mr. Alexey CHEKMAREV who will be following BSEC meetings on behalf of the Russian Consulate General in Istanbul.

Consul General PODELYSHEV reiterated the interest of the Russian Federation – a Founding Member of and an important contributor to BSEC – in the activities of the BSEC PERMIS and asked to be informed on the latest developments concerning a number of issues, among others, the preparation of the upcoming Informal Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in New York and the ongoing process for the relocation of the BSEC headquarters.

Both sides agreed that the role of BSEC as a vehicle for promoting cooperation and understanding in the wider Black Sea area is of high importance and should be maintained also by introducing, if necessary, required reforms and changes.

With regard to the forthcoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation in BSEC in the first half of 2016, the two sides concurred that a closer cooperation and coordination between them would contribute to the effectiveness and success of the Chairmanship.