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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN NEW YORK

The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated in the Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, which took place on 29 September 2015, in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The meeting was organized by the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC and presided by H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr. Bogdan AURESCU.

Minister AURESCU introduced a candid discussion among participants, without the use of prepared written texts, covering the main issues of relevance for BSEC. He underlined the importance of promoting in a timely manner all necessary changes and reforms, which will render BSEC a more effective and efficient organization.

At the proposal of the Chairman, talks also focused on ways and means to develop and attract more concrete projects of common interest, to be financed by BSEC and other sources.

Participants agreed that, in view of the forthcoming 25th Anniversary of BSEC, which will be celebrated in 2017, efforts should be undertaken to adapt and update the strategy of BSEC, in order to better attain its aims and objectives.

In agreement with the BSEC priorities to enhance and consolidate synergy and interaction with the EU, Mr. Johannes HAHN, EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement, who also attended the meeting, outlined the activities of the EU in the Black Sea region and stressed the interest for further expanding EU cooperation with the Black Sea countries. He underlined that, under today's circumstances, the role of BSEC in achieving the above objectives gains enormous importance.

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General CHRISTIDES had the opportunity to inform the Ministers and Heads of Delegations on the latest developments, concerning various issues facing BSEC and the Secretariat today, as well as on efforts to consolidate and streamline the work of the PERMIS and the BSEC Working Groups. He underlined that all relevant efforts could meet with success only if the Member States decide to actively support the Organization and endow it with the necessary human and material resources.