

29 September 2015

Press Release of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC

Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

The Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu chaired the Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Ministers of the BSEC Member States, which was held in New York on September 29, 2015.

The meeting addressed the recent developments in BSEC, as well as the main objectives and the timetable of the Romanian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, which focuses on identifying means of making the Organization more effective and efficient on the international level.

It is to be reminded that Romania is holding its fifth BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office between July 1 and December 31, 2015 under the slogan “Building Stability, Enhancing Connectivity”, which coincides with the organization’s acronym (BSEC) and reflects Romania’s firm commitment towards the Organization and its activities.

Minister Bogdan Aurescu underscored the main objective, namely the consolidation of the contribution of inter-governmental economic cooperation at regional level in terms of sustainable development, and thus to the political stability of the wider Black Sea area. The Romanian Minister pointed out that Romania’s current mandate is centered on fostering regional inter-connection in the fields of transport, energy, the environment, combating organized crime and tax evasion and is aimed at contributing to raising the profile of the Organization for Member States, including at European level.

At the proposal of the Romanian official, talks also focused on means for the organization to develop projects of common interest more effectively, to be financed through BSEC. Bogdan Aurescu also highlighted the fact that the implementation of concrete projects will help raise the profile of the BSEC. At the same time the participants reviewed the results of BSEC during the two decades since its foundation and exchanged views on how the Organization could meet the actual needs and expectations of Member States. Additionally, the participants started a process of analysis of BSEC prospects and its future strategic objectives ahead of the Organization 25th Anniversary, to be celebrated in 2017.

In agreement with the priorities set by the Romanian Chairmanship, namely to consolidate BSEC-EU interaction, EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiation, Mr. Johannes Hahn also attended the meeting, outlining the activities of the European Union in the field of concrete cooperation with BSEC, in agreement with the Organization’s economic mandate. The EU official pointed out the EU’s strong interest for cooperation with the Black Sea countries and the importance of BSEC in this respect. Moreover, he expressed the Commission’s willingness to support BSEC to elaborate viable projects that could attract EU funding.