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

On his first official visit to Moscow, after assuming his duties as the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES was received on 28 October 2015 by H.E. Mr. Vassily A. NEBENZIA, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who hosted his guest to a working lunch. Present at the meeting were also Mr. Evgeny A. STANISLANOV, Director for Economic Cooperation, Mr. Sergei N. GONCHARENKO, Deputy Director for Economic Cooperation and Mr. Rafael USUBOV, Counselor at the Department of Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues related to the preparation of the forthcoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation (first semester of 2016) and reviewed the current and perspective activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies.

Both sides agreed that the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office could be a catalyst in the efforts to render BSEC a more efficient and productive Organization. In this respect, they agreed that a “brainstorming” meeting with the participation of all concerned, which the Russian Federation offered to host during its Chairmanship, could prove of paramount importance.

Finally, it was agreed that in order to better coordinate efforts for a successful Russian Chairmanship-in-Office, the Secretary General will visit Moscow again during the first half of December.

On the sidelines of his visit to the Russian capital, Secretary General CHRISTIDES also met with the Vice President of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE) Mr. Viacheslav PSHENICHNIKOV, in the presence of Mr. Valeryi KAZYULIN, ICIE Vice President - Chief of the Staff, Ms. Irina MITROKHINA, Deputy Chief of the Staff, Ms. Anastasia PROKOSHKINA, ICIE Expert and Mr. Sergey GONCHARENKO, Deputy Director at the Department of Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES shared his optimism that the already agreed-upon text of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and the ICIE will be approved during the forthcoming meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and, thus, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in December. Both sides expressed the wish to further promote their cooperation in a concrete, practical and mutually beneficial way.