



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat
Istanbul / Turkey

Fax: (+90212) 2296336 E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org www.bsec-organization.org

**PRESS RELEASE ON THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF H.E. MR. DIMITRIS MARDAS,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
TO THE BSEC HEADQUARTERS**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic H.E. Mr. Dimitris MARDAS paid an official visit to the BSEC Headquarters, on 19 November 2015. Deputy Minister H.E. Mr. MARDAS was received by the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES. The Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Istanbul and the Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to BSEC, Mr. Evangelos SEKERIS accompanied the Deputy Minister during his visit to the Organization.

At the BSEC Headquarters, a briefing was provided to H.E. MARDAS on the history, structure, activities and projects of the Organization.

During the bilateral consultations between Secretary General CHRISTIDES and Deputy Minister MARDAS, the two sides exchanged views and discussed various issues related to the functioning of the Organization and its Permanent International Secretariat; efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of BSEC; as well as the agenda of the upcoming Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs which will take place in Bucharest, on 11 December 2015. The preparations for the 25th Anniversary of BSEC, which will be marked in 2017, were also among the topics discussed.

Following his visit to BSEC, Deputy Minister MARDAS also paid a visit to International Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) in Istanbul, which is one of the four Related Bodies of BSEC. He was accompanied by Secretary General CHRISTIDES, First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Tahsin BURCUOĞLU and Consul General SEKERIS. At the PABSEC Headquarters, he met with the Secretary General of PABSEC Dr. Asaf HAJIYEV. Issues related to the work of PABSEC were addressed, including plans to enhance the status of PABSEC. The meeting was followed by a working luncheon.