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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
WITH THE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT, MARITIME
AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides met on Monday 25 April 2016, in Istanbul, with European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr. Karmenu Vella.

Ambassador Christides informed the Commissioner about the current and prospective activities of BSEC, focusing on the priorities of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation. He underlined that the enhancement of BSEC-EU cooperation ranks high among BSEC priorities and noted the steady increase of the frequency and level of PERMIS contacts with the European Union in recent years, in particular in what concerns maritime affairs. In this context, Ambassador Christides remarked that the objective now was to give practical content to this interaction by putting into profit BSEC's unique experience and knowledge of the wider Black Sea region and its ability to stimulate the participation of various regional stakeholders in joint initiatives, stressing the increased interaction of BSEC with local and regional authorities.

Commissioner Vella noted the appreciation of the European Union for BSEC's contribution to stability and development and expressed his support for enhancing EU-BSEC interaction, taking advantage of the many emerging opportunities in the region. The Commissioner underlined the need for better coordination between the two sides and expressed the hope that BSEC will be able to be involved in projects in the framework of EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) for the Black Sea, especially in the cruise sector. In the same vein, Mr. Vella requested information on BSEC projected activities in the fields of maritime affairs and environment and expressed the readiness of the relevant Directorates General of the European Commission to explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation with the Organization.

Both sides agreed to continue and develop their exchange of views on concrete issues of cooperation, with the view of enhancing BSEC-EU interaction in a project-orientated direction.

