

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

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## PRESS RELEASE BSEC PERMIS HOSTS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BALKAN AND BLACK SEA COMMISSION OF THE CPMR (Istanbul, 30-31 May 2016)

On 30-31 May 2016, BSEC PERMIS hosted in its premises the General Assembly of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission of the Committee of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), a BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

The plenary session of the Assembly was devoted to policies and cooperation programmes in the Balkan and Black Sea area, while two thematic panels addressed challenges and opportunities in the fields of tourism networks and clusters and the promotion of entrepreneurship, in particular in SMEs.

In his intervention, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, presented BSEC and its priorities and referred, especially, to the prospects of cooperation with the CPMR and the importance the Organization attaches to developing its interaction with local and regional authorities, especially for the formulation of joint projects.

Overall, the meeting provided participants with an excellent opportunity to present their respective priorities and modalities of work, elaborate on their expectations from existing financing instruments in the current programming period and explore concrete prospects for cooperation in common projects and initiatives.