



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 PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL TO
THE MEETING OF THE 17TH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR MIDDLE EAST OF
THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS (UIC)
(BSEC Headquarters, 3 June 2016)

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between BSEC and the International Union of Railways (UIC), the BSEC PERMIS hosted in its premises the 17th Regional Assembly for Middle East of the International Union of Railways, on 3 June 2016. The Meeting was organized by the Turkish State Railways (TCDD). Representatives from the Middle East Member States of the UIC participated in the meeting.

During his opening remarks, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES underlined the importance that BSEC Member States attach to the improvement of transport infrastructure also in states neighboring the wider Black Sea region. Being an organization which promotes economic cooperation among its Member States and beyond, he stated that the interest of BSEC in facilitating the fast and safe transport of goods and the movement of people in regions adjacent to its territory is natural and is proof of BSEC's desire to assume a more visible and active role in promoting the facilitation of transport in general. The Secretary General added that Members of the Regional Assembly for Middle East of UIC (Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iran, Afghanistan, Qatar) are geographically located on the belt in which many expect to establish the modern Silk Road links that will connect Asia to Europe and open to the world the landlocked economies of Asia. He stated that this geostrategic position of UIC Member States in the Middle East is acknowledged by BSEC Member States which wish to establish a closer cooperation with them.

Towards this direction, the implementation of proposals included in the Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and UIC becomes a useful instrument for achieving common objectives. The fact that UIC has already included in the agenda of its meetings the issue of the "New Silk Roads by Train" is indicative of the importance this subject already has, involving many countries of the region.

The UIC Director General Mr. Jean-Pierre LOUBINOX thanked the BSEC PERMIS for its active cooperation and agreed on the necessity to explore and implement more ways of synergy between BSEC and UIC. The two sides exchanged information on events in their respective calendars which could be of mutual interest.