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PRESS RELEASE ON
RELATIONS BETWEEN BSEC AND FRANCE

Ambassador Pierre ANDRIEU, responsible for the Black Sea region and for the EU Oriental Partnership at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, paid a visit to the BSEC Headquarters for consultations, on 6 June 2016.

Ambassador ANDRIEU was welcomed by the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES and the First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Tahsin BURCUOGLU.

Ambassadors CHRISTIDES and BURCUOGLU informed their guest on the aims and objectives of BSEC, on its wide range of activities and on the efforts to further increase its effectiveness and efficiency. They described the ways the BSEC PERMIS is trying to enhance its project-oriented character and underlined that the Organization is a significant point of reference in what concerns economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea region.

They added that BSEC is an open and transparent Intergovernmental Organization which seeks cooperation and partnership with other International Organizations, as well as individual States.

They encouraged Ambassador ANDRIEU to lead the way for France to renew its Observer status within BSEC, by fulfilling the necessary procedure. They underlined the possibilities of cooperation with France, especially in the promotion of joint projects that the latter would wish to implement in the Black Sea region.

Ambassador ANDRIEU expressed great interest in the activities of BSEC and acknowledged the significance of its role not only in the region, but also beyond, as a trustworthy international interlocutor. He added that the renewal of the Observer status of France can be of significant mutual benefit.

The possibility of jointly working on the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides was also discussed.

In his capacity as the Co-President of the Minsk Group, Ambassador ANDRIEU had also a fruitful meeting with Mr. Samir Ahmadov, Executive Manager at the BSEC PERMIS, with whom he exchanged views and ideas concerning regional issues.