



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
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**PRESS RELEASE ON  
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE  
CONFERENCE ON THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE BLACK SEA  
(Odessa, 14-15 June 2016)**

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES participated at the Conference on “***The Blue Economy of the Black Sea - Towards Better Integration***”, which was organized in Odessa, on 14-15 June 2016, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the European Commission.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Volodymyr KISTION, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Andrei GALBUR, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Karmenu VELLA, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr. Claudiu VRINCEANU, State Secretary for Economy, Trade and Business Environment of Romania, Mr. Georgi PIRINSKI, Member of the European Parliament, as well as representatives from regional organizations, associations and initiatives, research centres and institutes and the private sector.

In his opening statment, Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES referred to recent activities of BSEC, focusing on maritime affairs and recent developments regarding cooperation with the European Commission. He also underlined the priority attached by BSEC to the promotion of concrete projects and expressed the willingness and readiness of the Organization to participate in the development of joint initiatives and projects of mutual benefit, in areas which fall within BSEC priorities and objectives.

It was noted that many participants, including representatives of coastal states and the European Commissioner, referred specifically to BSEC and its activities, underlining the relevance and usefulness of the latter’s role as promoter of regionally owned initiatives.