



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 PRIORITIES OF THE SERBIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC

H.E. Ambassador Ms. Katarina Lalic SMAJEVIC, Deputy Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, representing the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, presented the priorities of the Chairmanship to the representatives of the BSEC Member States, Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 12 July 2016.

Deputy Assistant Minister H.E. Ms. SMAJEVIC was welcomed by the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, who wished success to the Serbian Chairmanship and expressed the readiness of the Secretariat to extend all necessary support for the fulfillment of the priorities identified by the Chairmanship.

In her statement at the BSEC Headquarters, Deputy Assistant Minister H.E. Ms. SMAJEVIC stated that the primary task to be pursued by the Chairmanship will be to contribute to the improvement of economic cooperation among the BSEC Member States in areas of mutual interest.

Deputy Assistant Minister H.E. Ambassador Ms. SMAJEVIC stated that the Serbian Chairmanship will strive to follow-up the activities of previous Chairmanships and also support the preparations for the 25th Anniversary of BSEC which will be marked on 25 June 2017 during the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC.

Transport has been identified as the main sectoral priority of the Serbian Chairmanship. Along with transport, cooperation will also be fostered in the spheres of energy, SMEs, environmental protection, combating organized crime, tourism, education, science and technology, culture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, emergency assistance and customs.

One of the main priorities of the Chairmanship will remain the strengthening of the Organization, improvement of its efficiency and the enhancement of its project oriented approach and project management capacity. In this context, the

Chairmanship envisages to continue promoting reform efforts within the Organization, covering, among other areas, organizational and budgetary issues.

Deputy Assistant Minister H.E. Ambassador Ms. SMAJEVIC underlined that the Serbian Chairmanship will also focus on promoting cooperation with regional and international organizations, through joint projects and Memoranda of Understanding. The drafting of the biennial Resolution of the UN General Assembly on cooperation between BSEC and UN, which is expected to be adopted during the 71. Session of the UN General Assembly, will be coordinated by the Serbian Chairmanship. Serbia will also foster the enhancement of BSEC-EU interaction.

During its term, the Serbian Chairmanship will work for the active involvement of BSEC Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners in addressing regional cooperation issues.

As is known, Serbia has assumed the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC as of 1 July 2016, for a term of six months ending on 31 December 2016. During this period, the Serbian Chairmanship envisages to implement a comprehensive calendar of events. The formal and informal meetings of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport constitute the highlights of the calendar of events of the Serbian Chairmanship.

