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**PRESS RELEASE ON**  
**THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL WITH**  
**REPRESENTATIVES OF KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG**  
**(Istanbul, 8 September 2016)**

The outgoing Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Turkey Dr. Colin DÜRKOP and his successor Mr. Sven-Joachim IRMER visited the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES on 8 September 2016, at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul.

The meeting allowed the two sides to exchange information on their respective activities and to have a preliminary discussion on the possibilities for enhanced cooperation in different spheres, in addition to their longstanding cooperation in the field of SMEs. The two sides decided to continue their consultations in late September.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the valuable contributions of the outgoing Representative Dr. Colin DÜRKOP to organizing events and activities for the development of SMEs in the BSEC Region and to raise public awareness in the region on the importance of SMEs which are essential for the sustainable economic growth of countries. While wishing Dr. DÜRKOP continued success in his future endeavors, Secretary General CHRISTIDES wished success to the new Representative Mr. Sven-Joachim IRMER in his new position and reiterated the importance attached by BSEC to its cooperation with KAS.

KAS is one of the core partners of BSEC in the sphere of SMEs. Since 1997, 49 workshops and seminars have been jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS and KAS, aiming to enhance dialogue between the stakeholders and decision-makers in the development of SME policies in the BSEC Member States.

The next BSEC-KAS Joint Workshop is envisaged to be organized with the theme of "SME Government Policies and SME Support Measures" in Yerevan, the Republic of Armenia, on 1-2 December 2016.