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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING OF BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY
GENERAL AMBASSADOR MICHAEL B. CHRISTIDES WITH
FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL JOSE GRAZIANO DA SILVA**

During his visit to New York to participate at the Informal Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (23.09.2016), the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, met with the Director-General of FAO, Jose Graziano DA SILVA, on 21 September 2016.

Following their last meeting during the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) (Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 May 2016), Ambassador CHRISTIDES and Director-General DA SILVA had the opportunity to review the progress achieved in the development of relations between the two Organizations and exchange views on the further steps to be taken ahead.

Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES reiterated the readiness of the BSEC PERMIS to engage with FAO in common projects for the Black Sea region and beyond, in light of the proposed draft MoU to be signed between the two organizations in the nearest future.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed FAO Director-General DA SILVA on the cooperation established with the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) and on the active participation of the BSEC PERMIS in the "High Level Conference Towards Enhanced Cooperation on Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture" organized by the GFCM (Bucharest, 24-25 October 2016). He also referred to the intention of the BSEC PERMIS to organize a similar International Conference on Fisheries in the Black Sea in 2017, in collaboration with the GFCM and the Municipality of Sariyer in Istanbul.

The Director-General assured of FAO's interest to actively engage in the preparation of the above Conference and, thus, continue its valued cooperation with the GFCM and BSEC PERMIS.

The two sides agreed to cooperate and to complement the efforts of each other's Organizations aimed at enhancing interaction in the field of agriculture, with a specific focus on fisheries and transboundary animal diseases.

The meeting took place in a friendly and open atmosphere, with both sides demonstrating a genuine interest and desire to further enhance their cooperation for the mutual benefit of all concerned.

