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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING OF BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY  
GENERAL AMBASSADOR MICHAEL B. CHRISTIDES WITH  
UNIDO DIRECTOR-GENERAL LI YONG**

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 the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Li YONG.

The aim of the meeting was to reactivate cooperation between the two Organizations, based on the *Relationship Agreement Between BSEC and UNIDO*, signed in 1997.

The UNIDO Director-General informed Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES on the latest priorities of UNIDO, underlining that the momentum for promoting the industrialization of emerging economies is most favourable and a new implementation strategy, to which UNIDO attaches great importance, will start being applied from next year. He described the program for the Industrial Development Aid to Africa and stressed the desire of his Organization to cooperate with industrially developed countries on the implementation of the program. In this regard, he expressed his readiness to consider any proposals BSEC PERMIS could have on the subject.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed his interlocutor on the overall activities of BSEC in the Black Sea region and asked the Director-General to consider the possibility of jointly organizing events and projects that can promote UNIDO's objectives among BSEC Member States. He underlined that the BSEC PERMIS would be interested in discussing the possibilities for the extension of the UNIDO *Global Cleantech Innovation Program for SMEs* to cover all BSEC Member States. Currently, this program covers only two BSEC Member States, namely, Turkey and Armenia.

Furthermore, Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES proposed to jointly explore the possibilities for hosting or co-organizing various events and activities of UNIDO at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, adding that BSEC attaches particular importance to the fields of energy, environment, clean technology and innovation. He also stressed that having representatives from UNIDO as participating guests in the meetings of the BSEC Working Groups on Energy, Environment and on SMEs could prove helpful in establishing a closer cooperation between the two Organizations.

The two men agreed that the respective officers of both Organizations should establish a more permanent contact through correspondence and start identifying projects and initiatives

of common interest, so that, in a second stage, they could engage in the actual implementation of such projects.

### **Background Information**

Cooperation between BSEC and the UNIDO *International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies* (UNIDO/ICHET) was established in 2008, with an emphasis on energy and environment. The said UNIDO Centre co-funded the pre-feasibility of a BSEC project titled "*Market Potential for Hydrogen Production from Hydrogen Sulphide in Black Sea and Industrial Waters*" with a symbolic amount.

Further, a Workshop on "*Scientific and Commercial Opportunities in the Field of Hydrogen Energy in the Black Sea Region*" was co-organized by the BSEC Business Council, the BSEC Hellenic Development Fund, the International Energy Agency and UNIDO-ICHET, on 9-10 November 2010, in Istanbul.