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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL IN
THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RAILWAY HISTORY
(Istanbul, 2-5 November 2016)**

Upon invitation, the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, participated in the “*Seventh International Conference on Railway History*” jointly organized by the IRHA Historic association, the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Turkish State Railways (TCDD), taking place from 2 to 5 November in Istanbul, at the historic railway station/railway museum of Sirkeci.

The main objective of the Conference was to describe “*past achievements, utopian dreams and the future prospects for rail transport between Europe, the Middle East and the Far East*”.

In his address, the Secretary General underlined the great importance BSEC Organization and its Member States attach to the improvement of railway connectivity in the wider region of the Black Sea, which serves as the bridge between Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

He added that, given the dynamism with which new transport – railway infrastructure is being constructed in the Eurasian region by an ever increasing number of international actors, the geo-strategic area covered by the BSEC Member States assumes even greater relevance.

Ambassador Christides mentioned also the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between UIC and BSEC PERMIS, which encapsulates means and ways to establish cooperation and synergies in the vital sector of transports in general, linking the BSEC transport infrastructure to European and Asian networks.