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**PRESS RELEASE ON**  
**THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**  
**H.E. MR. DANIEL MITOV**

On the occasion of his recent visit to Sofia (29-30 November 2016), the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Daniel Mitov, with whom he discussed all current BSEC issues, especially in view of the forthcoming Meeting of the CMFA in Belgrade, on the 13th of December 2016. The Secretary General informed his High interlocutor on the efforts of PERMIS to render the Organization more efficient and productive, while also focusing on an enhanced project-oriented activity. Minister Mitov expressed his appreciation for the above efforts and reiterated the support of the Republic of Bulgaria to all proposals that will improve the effectiveness of the BSEC Organization, foremost among them, the proposal to extend the Chairmanship term to 12 months, instead of 6 as is the case today, given all the obvious advantages of such a change.

The PERMIS Secretary General was also hosted to a working lunch by the new Director General for European Affairs of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Boyko Mirchev and had a meeting with the new Head of the Department for South East Europe, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Krasimir Tulechki. On both occasions Ambassador Christides had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in BSEC affairs and to exchange views on issues of common interest.

The above meetings respond to the efforts of the BSEC PERMIS to keep Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States informed on all current issues of the Organization, through contacts at the highest possible level.