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**PRESS RELEASE ON**  
**THE ORIENTATION SEMINAR ON BSEC ISSUES**  
**FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM THE CONSULATES GENERAL AND**  
**REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
**IN ISTANBUL**

The first annual Orientation Seminar on BSEC issues was organized at the BSEC Headquarters, on 6 December 2016, for consular officers from the Consulates General and for international officials from the International Organizations in Istanbul.

The main goal of the seminar was to familiarize the participants with the functioning and key priorities and activities of BSEC.

During the opening session of the Orientation Seminar, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES and the Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, delivered welcoming remarks.

During the working session, representatives of the BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the history, structure, statutory documents, main activities and accomplishments of BSEC.

A part of the seminar was devoted to acquainting the participants with the BSEC family of institutions and in this context the activities of the four BSEC Related Bodies, namely, the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC), the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).

The openness of BSEC and its cooperation with its Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and selected International Organizations was also discussed.

Information was provided to the participants on the upcoming 25th Anniversary of BSEC, as well as the Summit Meeting and other events and activities which are envisaged to mark this special anniversary.

The briefings were followed by interactive question and answer sessions.

The Orientation Seminar concluded with the presentation of "Certificates of Participation" by Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES to the participants.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the event and underlined that they found the Orientation Seminar useful for their overall information concerning the activities of International Organizations headquartered in Istanbul.