PRESS RELEASE ON
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
AT THE “VARNA FORUM”

(Varna, 13 May 2017)

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, addressed as
a keynote speaker the second edition of the “Varna Forum – Thinking Together” conference, titled
“The Black Sea: Confrontation or Cooperation?”, which was held in Varna, on Saturday, 13 May
2017.

Participants offered proposals for the most effective enhancement of regional cooperation and had
the opportunity to exchange views on the prevailing trends of the emerging new global framework,
the effective promotion of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the role and influence
of the European Union and international initiatives affecting the region, such as the “One Belt - One
Road” initiative.

In this context, a particular emphasis was given to the discussion on the merits and the overall
prospects for the potential elaboration, by the European Union, of a Macro-Regional Strategy
focusing on the Black Sea region, based on the previous examples and accumulated experience of
the Baltic Sea, the Danube, the Adriatic and Ionian and the Alpine Regions.

In his intervention, Ambassador CHRISTIDES noted the role of the BSEC Organization as a
consistent and effective vehicle of interaction in many sectors for the past 25 years, helping to
promote a valuable culture of dialogue among its Member States, as well as the establishment of
many networks of sectorial cooperation. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS underlined
that the BSEC Organization will continue to provide its own specific contribution to regional
cooperation in the wider Black Sea region and would be ready to examine all future initiatives of
the European Union, which, if well and meticulously prepared, could provide additional
opportunities for BSEC-EU interaction, in the framework of the general positive cooperation
between the two organizations.