



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (Istanbul, 17 May 2017)

The Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the BSEC Member States was held in Istanbul on 17 May 2017. It was preceded, on 16 May 2017, by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-industry at the level of Senior Officials.

The representatives of the BSEC Member States, BSEC Related Bodies, BSEC Observers, Special Dialogue Partners and several international organizations attended the meeting.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Faruk ÇELİK, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey, who addressed the meeting with an opening statement.

Ambassador Michael CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS also delivered an opening statement emphasizing the importance of agriculture and of the social, economic and scientific activity it entails in the context of rapidly increasing population of our small world. He pointed out the vast agricultural potential of the Black Sea region and the wide ranging prospects it offers for agro-industry business as the main reasons behind the cooperation of the Member States in the area of agriculture and agro-industry during the last 25 years.

The Secretary General informed the Ministers that the Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC and the Municipality of Sariyer (Istanbul) will organize a Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture on 31 October – 1 November 2017 in Istanbul in order to consider the main issues affecting fisheries management, assess the environmental and socio-economic impact on fisheries and aquaculture and encourage the cooperation between the private and public sectors in the Black Sea.

The Heads of the Delegations of the BSEC Member States delivered their statements and adopted “The Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the BSEC Member States” which sets up an ambitious road map to further enhance and intensify the cooperation of the BSEC Member States in the field of agriculture. Among other priorities the Declaration underscores the possibility of establishing the BSEC Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, in partnership with FAO, which will assist the Member States in implementing joint research programs, special training activities, exchange of information and knowledge in the BSC Region.