



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE PARTICIPATION MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE
FOURTH STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ON THE INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY OF THE
EU IN THE BLACK SEA
(Batumi, 15 September 2017)**

The fourth edition of the annual Conference on the Integrated Maritime Policy of the EU in the Black Sea was organized in Batumi (Georgia), on 15 September 2017, by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and the European Commission, under the title “Blue Economy in the Black Sea. Connecting the region through marine and maritime cooperation”.

Keynote addresses were delivered by H.E. Giorgi CHERKEZISHVILI, Deputy Minister for Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, H.E. Ekaterine GRIGALAVA, Deputy Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, H.E. Vasyl POLUYKO, Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, H.E. Andriy GALUSHCHAK, State Secretary for Infrastructure of Ukraine, H.E. Inga PODOROGHIN, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, as well as H.E. Karmenu VELLA, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (through video message).

As in its previous three editions, the Stakeholders' Meeting brought together representatives from national governments of the Black Sea riparian states, from regional organizations, initiatives and associations, from research centres and institutes, as well as representatives from the private sector; it provided to all the opportunity to present their respective activities and exchange ideas on national maritime policies and on further developing regional cooperation, especially in the areas of environment monitoring and protection, fisheries, maritime tourism and investment promotion and business opportunities, in particular on ports' development.

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES also delivered a keynote address at the meeting.

In his intervention, Ambassador Christides referred to recent activities of the Organization, focusing on maritime affairs and underlined the priority attached by BSEC to the promotion of concrete projects, also expressing the willingness and readiness of the Organization to participate in the development of joint initiatives of mutual benefit, in areas which fall within BSEC priorities and objectives.