



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE EU-EURASIA-CHINA BUSINESS SUMMIT

Athens, 9-10 October 2017

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated upon the invitation of the organizers in the **EU-Eurasia-China Business Summit** entitled “**Building Bridges from East to West**”, which was prepared by **The Economist**, in cooperation with the “**Greek-Eurasian Business Council**” on October 9-10, 2017 in Athens.

More than forty distinguished personalities from Europe, China and the greater Eurasian region participated in this important initiative, which aimed to promote business cooperation and new investments as a way to further enhance relations between Europe and Asia.

The PERMIS Secretary General underlined to participants and the large audience that the oldest “Eurasian” organization promoting economic cooperation in the core-region of “Eurasia” is that of the *Black Sea Economic Cooperation*. Its Member States and their respective territories literally constitute the “bridge” between Europe and Asia and the multifaceted activities of BSEC, whatever the past or recent challenges encountered, are a firm step to the direction of establishing better understanding and common interests among all stakeholders (Statement of Ambassador CHRISTIDES: <http://bit.ly/2zJTULo>).

SECRETARY GENERAL’S BILATERAL MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF THE SUMMIT

On the sidelines of the Summit, the PERMIS Secretary General had a bilateral meeting with the **Founding Chairman** of the **Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce** (SRCIC) Mr. Jianzhong LU and with Mr. Jemal INAISHVILI, President of the **Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce & Industry** (CACCI).

During the meeting Amb CHRISTIDES introduced to his interlocutors the BSEC Organization, its activities and plans for the immediate future, reiterating that BSEC PERMIS is keenly interested in establishing contact and possible collaboration with state or other entities – from China, as well as with private business communities from the Asian continent.

The two sides agreed to hold an Ad-Hoc meeting between representatives of the BSEC Member States and of the Latter’s’ business communities, on the one hand, with the Board of the SRCIC and potentially interested members of the Chamber, on the other.

The PERMIS Secretary General discussed also with Mr. David KIANG, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the SRCIC, the possibilities of attracting Chinese funds for the implementation of BSEC projects, especially in the sector of transport and trade facilitation.

Finally, Ambassador CHRISTIDES gave a lengthy interview to the Hong Kong-based economic TV channel “**Phoenix TV-HK**”, describing the BSEC Organization and its twenty-five-year-long presence and activity in the Black Sea region.