



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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### PRESS RELEASE ON THE 33RD MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Sofia, 8 June 2018)

Invited by the Organizers, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, which took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 8 June 2018.

In his opening remarks Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES stressed the importance BSEC PERMIS attaches to its cooperation with BSEC-URTA. He assured participants that the BSEC PERMIS is supporting the legitimate proposals and requests of the Associations of haulers in the BSEC Member States directly involved in national and international road transports and confirmed that PERMIS will continue to coordinate its relevant efforts for achieving the common objectives of the two entities, which are faster, safer and more competitive transports in the wider Black Sea region.

Based on a presentation made with data concerning the long delays noted at various border crossing points due to the heavy traffic of trucks, Ambassador CHRISTIDES requested data concerning the average delay in days at the most important border-crossing points, so that PERMIS could propose the inclusion of the issue as an item on the Agenda of the next Meetings of the Ministers of Transport and of that of the relevant BSEC Working Group.

It was generally accepted that delays as the above do not only hurt Transport companies and exporters/importers in the Black Sea countries, but also the whole economy of the BSEC Member States and should be addressed at the highest possible level. It was also agreed that however much we improve and upgrade the necessary infrastructure, the need to address the bureaucratic obstacles remains also very urgent.

The great number of participants and the lively deliberations that took place during the meeting confirmed again that the BSEC-URTA is a dynamic and active Union representing its Member Associations from the BSEC States in the best possible way.