

## **Azerbaijani Deputy FM attends meeting of BSEC Foreign Ministers Council**

1 December 2010

Deputy FM met with his Greek counterpart on the sidelines of the event.

A delegation of Azerbaijan participated in the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) held on 26 November 2010 in Thessaloniki with the theme “Green Development and Entrepreneurship”. The delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev included ambassador to Greece Rahman Mustafayev and Foreign Ministry representatives. Speaking at the event, Mammadgulyev said Azerbaijan expects much from the organization. He highlighted the importance of the BSEC Permanent Secretariat`s work. He noted all-round economic cooperation is ineffective without resolution of “frozen conflicts” and establishment of stability in the region.

Deputy FM met with his Greek counterpart on the sidelines of the event to discuss cooperation on a bilateral basis and within international organizations.

In the working session of the meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on issues of common concern to the region.

The Ministers also adopted the Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area. This Declaration will be submitted by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office to the United Nations Climate Change Conference which will take place in December 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, constituting a contribution of BSEC to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

Various measures to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of BSEC were examined. In this context, steps to enhance the status, capacities and capabilities of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in the planning and implementation of BSEC activities were decided on.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony took place whereby Greece handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to Romania. Romania will officially assume the Chairmanship as of 1 January 2011, for a period of six months until 30 June 2011 BSEC serves as a forum for cooperation in a wide range of areas and a platform for political dialogue for its 12 Member States.

The BSEC countries encompass an area of approximately 20 million square kilometers with 330 million people.



Mahmud Mammadgulyev, Deputy FM met with his Greek counterpart on the sidelines of the event.

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