

BSEC foreign ministers to meet in New York

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Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos: The ministers will examine a document ... that contains guidelines on the improvement of BSEC efficiency

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The Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, or BSEC, are expected to meet in New York tomorrow during the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The 12 foreign ministers will hold an informal meeting that has become a customary event, chaired by current BSEC chairman-in-office Luizim Basha, Albania's foreign affairs minister.

The ministers will examine a document prepared by the Committee of Senior Officials that contains guidelines on the improvement of BSEC efficiency, which, if accepted, will be officially adopted at the BSEC Council of Ministers, which will meet in Tirana on Oct. 23, the BSEC secretary general, Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, told the Turkish Daily News.

These guidelines will improve the organizational aspects of the activities of BSEC, thus making them more efficient. It is the result of a letter sent by Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan to his BSEC colleagues April 30, in which he stressed the immediate necessity to improve the efficiency of the organization, he added.

While in the United States, Chrysanthopoulos also held consultations at the U.S. State Department with deputy assistant secretaries of state Judith Garber, David Merkel and Matt Bryza, in which the role of the United States as a BSEC observer as well as the situation in the Black Sea region were assessed.

The New York meeting will be the first time BSEC foreign ministers have met since the Georgia-Russia crisis.

The organization, a Turkish initiative, was founded in 1992 in order to promote stronger economic cooperation among Black Sea countries and promote peace and stability. BSEC member states are Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Moldova and Serbia.

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