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**PRESS RELEASE ON**  
**THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL TO**  
**THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE**  
**(Antalya, 4-6 May 2016)**

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES attended the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), held in Antalya, Turkey, on 4-6 May 2016.

During the “Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues” Ministerial Round Table, Secretary General CHRISTIDES delivered a statement. He briefed the participants on the activities of the Organization in the field of agriculture and promoted BSEC as a valuable regional partner, through which FAO could implement policies and projects in the Black Sea region.

In the light of the mutual interests of the two Organizations, Secretary General proposed to initiate the necessary procedures for concluding a Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and FAO, which will define the areas of cooperation and would hopefully lead, in the near future, to the implementation of joint projects in the Black Sea region.

On the sidelines of the conference, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General CHRISTIDES had the opportunity to meet with a number of high-ranking participants and exchange with them views on issues of common interest.

Ambassador CHRISTIDES was received for a bilateral discussion by the Director General of FAO, H.E. Mr. Jose Graziano da SILVA, with whom he agreed to promote the elaboration of the text of a mutually acceptable draft MOU, concerning concrete ways of fostering cooperation between the two Organizations. The two sides agreed to pursue efforts for further enhancing their synergy in the most important sectors of food security and supply.

The FAO Director General asked for the support of the BSEC PERMIS so that the Member States of the latter ratify the “FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing”.