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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE WORKING VISIT OF H.E. MR. VLADIMIR FILAT,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, TO THE BSEC HEADQUARTERS  
(Istanbul, 2 November 2012)**

H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, paid a working visit to the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 2 November 2012, within the framework of his official visit to the Republic of Turkey.

During his visit to the BSEC Headquarters, Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ambassador Dr. Victor TVIRCUN, Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat. Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT underlined the importance that the Republic of Moldova attaches to BSEC as one of the Founding Members of the Organization and expressed his country's keen interest to further enhance cooperation in the wider Black Sea area through BSEC mechanisms. Recent developments related to the Organization and the region, as well as ongoing and planned BSEC activities were discussed. Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT highlighted the importance of developing and implementing concrete projects for the common interest of all BSEC Member States and stated the readiness of the Republic of Moldova to extend full support to the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in conducting its work.

The visit was concluded with a reception hosted by the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in honor of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT at the BSEC Headquarters, with the participation of the representatives of the Missions of the BSEC Member States<sup>1</sup>, Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners in Istanbul.

**Background Information:**

BSEC was launched as a regionally owned initiative, with Turkey's lead, on 25 June 1992 at the Istanbul Summit, at a time when regional cooperation was most needed in the transformation process that the countries of the region were undergoing. The idea that stronger economic cooperation among the Black Sea countries would enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the region was the underlying philosophy behind BSEC. With the entry into force of its Charter in 1999, BSEC was officially transformed from an initiative into a regional cooperation organization.

Today, 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

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

approximately 20 million square kilometers with 330 million people. Transport, environmental protection, trade and economic development, energy, agriculture, banking and finance, migration management, combating organized crime, communications and information technologies, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, institutional renewal and good governance, education, science and technology, culture, tourism and customs matters are among the fields of cooperation within the framework of the Organization.

BSEC has recently commemorated its 20th anniversary with a Summit hosted by the Republic of Turkey in Istanbul, on 26 June 2012, at the level of Heads of State and Government. One of the main outcome documents of the Summit was the Istanbul Summit Declaration. With this Declaration, the Member States renewed their commitment to the BSEC process at the highest level. The Summit also endorsed a new Economic Agenda for the region. The Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership has been introduced to face the new challenges and opportunities in the global and local environment. This comprehensive regional strategy sets goals in 17 priority areas of action. It also provides recommendations to further strengthen the Organization.



**The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat H.E. Ambassador Dr. Victor TVIRCUN presenting a memento to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova H.E. Mr. Vladimir FILAT on the occasion of his working visit to the BSEC Headquarters (Istanbul, 2 November 2012).**