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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL

The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES received the Consul General of Israel in Istanbul Mr. Shai COHEN at the BSEC headquarters, on 31 August 2015.

Consul General COHEN underlined the increased interest of Israel to establish closer and more focused ties with BSEC. The two sides discussed and exchanged views on issues of common interest and agreed to jointly explore possible ways and areas for increasing cooperation, *inter alia*, through the possible involvement of Israeli state or private entities in BSEC labelled future projects and/or through the active participation of Israeli experts in meetings of the BSEC Working Groups, especially in areas where Israel has strong expertise.

As is known, Israel enjoys Observer status within BSEC since 1994 and participates in various meetings of BSEC, including the meetings of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials. To more actively contribute to BSEC cooperation, Israel invited experts from the BSEC Member States to a seminar on agriculture in 1995 and hosted a seminar on "The Role of SMEs in Development – the Israeli Experience" with the participation of high-level officials from the BSEC Member States and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in 2005.