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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
H.E. MR. ELMAR MAMMADYAROV

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES was received for a bilateral meeting by H.E. Mr. Elmar MAMMADYAROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 April 2016, on the occasion of his visit to Baku for attending the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues related to BSEC and the region, as well as to the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a Founding Member, to the activities of the Organization.

The Secretary General underlined that, given the negative circumstances prevailing in the region, the fact that BSEC functions as an open window for dialogue and understanding greatly adds to its value for all concerned.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES briefed H.E. Mr. MAMMADYAROV on the initiative undertaken by the PERMIS to promote a more streamlined and effective functioning of BSEC and its Secretariat, through a series of reforms and asked for the support of Azerbaijan to this endeavor. Minister MAMMADYAROV underlined the importance his Government attaches to any steps that are taken for the enhancement of the efficiency of the Organization and encouraged the Secretary General to continue his efforts in this direction. Increasing the budgetary capabilities of the BSEC PERMIS was also addressed during the meeting.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed his interlocutor on the preparations for the upcoming Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which will take place in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 1 July 2016, as well as the 25th Anniversary of the Organization which will be celebrated in 2017.

Underlining that the New Silk Road concept is directly touching the interests of the BSEC Member States, Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed H.E. Minister MAMMADYAROV of the activities of the BSEC PERMIS to attract funds from international financial institutions, including Chinese banks, in order to support, among others, the flagship transport infrastructure projects of the BSEC Member States, which will strengthen the overall Euro-Asian transport links. Minister MAMMADYAROV underlined that Azerbaijan, like many States in the region and beyond, fully supports recent efforts from the international community to establish a network of routes and links that will bring the East and West closer.