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**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF EMERGENCIES
AND RESCUE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

(Sochi, 8 June 2016)

The Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies of the BSEC Member States was held in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 8 June 2016.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vladimir PUCHKOV, Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. Opening statements were delivered by Minister PUCHKOV and BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Heads of Delegations adopted a Joint Statement which addresses the need for coordinated actions to prevent and eliminate the consequences of natural and man-made disasters.

The Joint Statement stipulates the strengthening of cooperation in information exchange among national crisis management centers of the BSEC Member States; the forecasting of emergency situations and the assessment of their consequences, as well as the exchange of advanced technologies for disaster risk reduction. The Joint Statement also envisages the sharing of best practices and knowledge in the prevention and elimination of the consequences of emergency situations; the elaboration and implementation of joint scientific and research projects, the exchange of scientific, technical and methodological literature as well as research results; the training of professionals in emergency management; and the organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops and exercises.