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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING OF BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY
GENERAL AMBASSADOR MICHAEL B. CHRISTIDES WITH
UNAOC HIGH REPRESENTATIVE NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL NASSER**

During his visit to New York to participate at the Informal Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (23.09.2016), the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, met with the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, on 21 September 2016.

They reviewed the progress in the development of cooperation between BSEC and the UNAOC after their last meeting in Baku and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two Organizations (27 April 2016).

The two sides agreed that the MOU should not merely remain a symbolic expression of goodwill, but it should serve as a useful tool to facilitate closer and more project oriented cooperation in the near future. Given the similarity of goals and aims between the two Organizations, it was acknowledged that BSEC could become a valuable partner for the UNAOC in the preparation and hosting of important events which promote respect, understanding and cooperation among States in the wider Black Sea region.

The two sides further agreed that the respective officers of both Organizations should establish a more regular contact and start elaborating concrete projects for events and initiatives which could be jointly implemented, with the BSEC PERMIS hosting or promoting them in the Black Sea region and beyond.

Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES reiterated the keen interest of the BSEC PERMIS to engage with the UNAOC in projects that concern the education and employment of young people in the region.

Following the bilateral meeting with the UNAOC High Representative, Secretary General CHRISTIDES took part in and addressed the audience at the UNAOC Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting in New York, on 23 September 2016.