



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNWTO TO THE BSEC HEADQUARTERS

Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) H.E. Mr. Taleb RIFAI paid a visit to the BSEC Headquarters on 27 January 2017, on the occasion of his official visit to Istanbul (Turkey). He was welcomed by H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

The two Secretaries-General continued their consultations recently held in Sofia and exchanged views on ways and means to further enhance cooperation in the field of tourism between BSEC and UNWTO, in accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed between the two in 2014.

Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS informed his interlocutor on the activities of the BSEC aimed at strengthening cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of tourism and thanked Mr. RIFAI for the support of UNWTO extended to the BSEC Organization in this regard. Secretary-General Mr. RIFAI expressed the willingness of UNWTO to continue assisting the BSEC by sharing its expertise, knowledge and good practices, including the joint organization of events of mutual interest, particularly in 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The two Secretaries-General expressed their satisfaction with the steady and fruitful development of cooperation between two Organizations and agreed to further intensify it.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, became a BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner on 1 January 2014 and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with BSEC on 23 October 2014.