



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE SEMINAR ON “AUTOMATION OF TRANSIT PROCEDURES & ELECTRONIC
EXCHANGE OF DATA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF TRADE FACILITATION”
(BSEC Headquarters, 19-20 April 2017)**

A Seminar on “Automation of Transit Procedures & Electronic Exchange of Data within the context of Trade Facilitation” was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 19-20 April 2017. The event was jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS, the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

Representatives of institutions dealing with customs matters, relevant state and business entities, experts from the BSEC Member States and other states, representatives of international organizations as well as of the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the BSEC PERMIS were among the participants.

During the opening session, welcoming statements were delivered by Ms. Didem DİRLİK SONGÜR, Head of Department, Directorate General for the EU and External Relations, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey, Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, and Ms. Aslı GÖZÜTOK, President of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA).

The two-day Seminar was held in different sessions whereby an exchange of national and international experiences concerning automation of transit procedures and electronic exchange of data took place. Participants made presentations on national and international practices and experiences gained in the relevant fields.

During the Seminar problems were identified regarding automation of the transit procedures and electronic exchange of data. The participants exchanged views aiming to find possible ways to overcome these obstacles.

At the conclusion of the Workshop the participants made a number of recommendations to the BSEC and to the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States with a view to promoting cooperation in the respective areas. They also agreed to continue building upon the achievements in the field of modernizing customs procedures pertaining to the trade facilitation projects.