



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ISTANBUL, 11 MAY 2017)

The Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 11 May 2017.

It was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nihat ZEYBEKÇİ, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by the representatives of the BSEC Member States and Related Bodies.

H.E. Mr. Nihat ZEYBEKÇİ, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, and H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, delivered opening statements.

In his statement, Secretary General CHRISTIDES emphasized that promoting the trade and economic cooperation among the BSEC Member States is one of the most important priorities for the BSEC Organization. The Secretary General stressed the need to use untapped potential available in the BSEC Region in order to enhance intra-regional trade, as it is currently well under the real capacity the region possesses. The Member States were invited to use the possibilities available within the BSEC, as a sound platform, to advance towards this goal.

The Secretary General highlighted the finalization at expert level of the drafts of the Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region and of the Framework for BSEC Single Window Cooperation, which are expected to be adopted in the near future. Once adopted, the BSEC Member States will have at their disposal two valuable instruments to achieve significant increase in intra-regional trade relations.

The Heads of Delegations delivered their statements regarding issues related to cooperation in trade and economic spheres within BSEC and the latest developments in their countries and in the region.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, the Heads of Delegations adopted the “Joint Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States - Increasing intra-trade in the BSEC Region via trade facilitation”.

Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES emphasized that the BSEC PERMIS, with the help of the Member States and other involved entities, will make every effort to use this important Joint Declaration to inspire and lead to concrete action in enhancing cooperation in trade and economic development in the BSEC Region.