



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON 2017 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM (ITF)

(Leipzig, Federal Republic of Germany, from 31 May to 2 June 2017)

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated at the 2017 International Transport Forum (ITF), held in Leipzig, Federal Republic of Germany, from 31 May to 2 June 2017.

This annual event is one of the most important international meetings on transports and overall connectivity, as well as on innovation and new technologies for the sector. This year it was attended by some 1.400 participants and more than 60 Ministers from all over the globe.

Ambassador Christides took part in the session “*Governance of Gateways and Corridors*”, under the title “*Exploring good practice*”. In his intervention, he had the opportunity to provide information on BSEC’s efforts to promote better transports between its Member States and beyond, on the Organization’s projects for the facilitation of trade and on the readiness of BSEC to cooperate with other international organizations and public or private entities in order to achieve common goals. He also underlined the geostrategic role of BSEC Member States, especially in view of the new initiatives promoting better connectivity between Europe and Asia and as an important energy-hub in the wider Black Sea region. Panelists and members from the audience showed great interest for knowing more on the relevant activities of the BSEC Organization.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Ambassador Christides was invited to participate at a trilateral meeting between the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Volodymyr OMELYAN, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Velik ZANCHEV and the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Mr. Nikos MAVRAGANIS. The three Ministers discussed ways and means of improving the transport capacity between their respective territories, also taking into account the existing framework for the promotion of the Black Sea Ring Highway project of BSEC.