



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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#### **PRESS RELEASE ON THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION "THE EUROPEAN REDISCOVERY OF THE BLACK SEA. FRENCH CONNECTIONS" (Burgas, 28 July 2017)**

The Secretary-General of BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES participated at the opening of the exhibition "The European Rediscovery of the Black Sea. French connections", hosted in the port city of Burgas, Bulgaria, on 28 July 2017.

The event was organized by the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian MFA and was included in the initiatives of the Republic of Bulgaria celebrating the 25th anniversary of the BSEC Organization. The exhibition comprised old maps, documents and other cartographic material reflecting the intense presence of the French in the wider Black Sea region, especially during the 19th and early 20th century.

Attending the opening ceremony were Ms. Tanya Mihaylova, Director of the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian MFA - who delivered a warm message of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, H.E. Ekaterina Zaharieva - H.E. Eric Lebedel, Ambassador of the French Republic to Bulgaria, Mr. Angel Zaburtov, Director General of the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure and many guests.

In his brief address, Ambassador Christides underlined the importance of constantly "re-discovering" the Black Sea region and invited participants to find inspiration in the many successful formats of cooperation, which existed in the region's rich history, for promoting regional cooperation in the wider Black Sea region and transforming it into one of peace, cooperation, dialogue and understanding.

On the sidelines of the event, the BSEC Secretary General visited the Municipality of Burgas and exchanged information and suggestions on areas of possible interaction, especially in the joint formulation and promotion of projects. Both sides agreed that there is ample room for establishing a focused and realistic cooperation in many fields, like fisheries, environment and infrastructure.