



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE PARTICIPATION IN GFCM MEETING

Rome, 2 March 2018

Upon the invitation from the *FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)* the BSEC PERMIS, in the person of the responsible Executive Manager Mr. Alexei Nistrean, participated in the *GFCM meeting for the preparation of the High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries*, held in Rome on 2 March 2018. The High-level meeting itself will be held in Malta on 25-26 September 2018 and is expected to adopt a Declaration and a regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

The preparatory meeting considered the draft Declaration prepared by the European Commission and the draft Action Plan, which is an integral part of the Declaration.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the GFCM contracting parties, cooperating non-contracting parties and several international and regional organizations. The following BSEC Member States were present: Albania, Georgia, Bulgaria, Russian Federation and Turkey. European Union, as a contracting party, was represented by DG MARE.

GFCM Secretariat made a presentation on the state of affairs with the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It was mentioned that 83% of fisheries are SSF, \$775 mln is the value at first sale from SSF segment, 57% of employment in the fisheries sector is done by SSF, and other important facts.

The BSEC PERMIS representative made a proposal to include a separate paragraph in the draft Declaration which will encourage the regional organizations and institutions to play a significant role in promoting the objectives and principles of the Declaration and to continue their contribution to the sustainability of the Small-Scale Fisheries.

The Declaration on SSF and its Plan of Action represent a road map to the improvement and sustainability of SSF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. After their adoption in September 2018 the documents will be brought to the attention of and considered within the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-industry with the subsequent implementation at national and regional level.