



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE 38th MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Yerevan, 27 June 2018)

The 38th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Yerevan, on 27 June 2018. H.E. Mr. Zohrab MNATSAKANYAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia chaired the meeting.

In addition to Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners also participated at the Council Meeting.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of further enhancing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area.

The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES expressed his thankfulness for the continued commitment of the Member States to the objectives of the Organization. He added that June 2018 marks the 20th Anniversary of BSEC's Charter.

At the closing session, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues, including on the approval of the BSEC Green Energy Strategy; on the approval of granting Observer status to Hungary; on the renewal of the Observer status of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Austria; on the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status of Japan, Slovenia, the Black & Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), the Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs) and the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN); on the state of cooperation in the BSEC areas of cooperation; on the appointment of Country-Coordinators to the BSEC Working Groups on Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (Russian Federation), Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (Turkey followed by Romania), Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceutical (Romania), and Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (Turkey); on the activities of BSEC and its Related Bodies; and on the appointment of BSEC PERMIS Staff.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony took place whereby the Republic of Armenia handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan will assume the duties of BSEC Chairmanship for a period of six months, from 1 July to 31 December 2018.

On the sidelines of the Council Meeting, Ministers held important bilateral talks.