



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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#### **PRESS RELEASE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA SYMPOSIUM (Athens, 20-21 March 2018)**

Representatives of the BSEC PERMIS participated in the “9th edition of the International Black Sea Symposium” organized in Athens on 20-21 March 2018 by the *International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)* dedicated to the “Blue Growth”.

Invited by the organizers, the PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. Christides delivered the key-note speech under the title “*Blue Growth as a driver for regional development*”, during which he touched upon the main factors that, according to him, could help transform the “Blue Growth” strategy into a comprehensive and efficient vehicle for achieving sustainable development. Among other he referred to the necessity of bringing into the picture a new generation of stakeholders, who will understand and be eager to introduce Technology and Innovation in the sector, to the political will for greater and more efficient cooperation and coordination among Regions and States, to the need of introducing more and better prepared partnerships among public and private entities.

The works of the Symposium were followed also by the responsible Executive Manager in the BSEC PERMIS, Mrs. Rositsa Stoeva, who presented to participants a comprehensive description of the activities and planned initiatives of the Organization for the overall promotion of “Blue Growth”, some of those initiatives in close cooperation with the EU.

Around 50 participants from the governmental, non-governmental, public and private sector from many countries participated in the Symposium and had the opportunity to exchange views and experience on the “Blue Growth” as a vehicle for sustainable development. Examples from other sea basins were also presented and discussed.