



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES AND OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

(Moscow, 19-20 April 2018)

The “*Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Education of the BSEC Member States*” was held in Moscow, within the framework of the “*Fifth Moscow International Education Fair*”, on 20 April 2018. The Ministerial Meeting, organized 13 years after the last, was opened by H.E. Dr. Olga VASILYEVA, Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

The Ministers in charge of Education and the Heads of Delegations of the participating BSEC Member States exchanged views and shared experiences on important issues of Education and reaffirmed the commitment of the BSEC Member States to strengthen their ties in the field of Education, as one of the most significant areas of cooperation since the very creation of BSEC. They adopted the “*Joint Moscow Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Education of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*” in which the Member States pledge to work together in the framework of the BSEC Organization in order to strengthen and bolster, where appropriate, cooperation among them and to encourage development of bilateral and multilateral projects related to Education. A number of concrete proposals for future cooperation were advanced and commitments were undertaken; among the latter, the Russian Federation expressed its readiness to examine the hosting of a BSEC stand at the Moscow International Education Fair in 2019.

The Meeting of the Ministers was preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education (Moscow, 19 April 2018), which considered a number of practical proposals aimed at enhancing cooperation among the BSEC Member States. The Working Group approved the above Declaration and its new Plan of Action for a two year period, elaborated by the Country-Coordinator of this Working Group (Russian Federation) and agreed to take concrete measures for the implementation of various projects, like the finalization of an informative leaflet/brochure on Higher Education in the BSEC Member States, etc.

The BSEC PERMIS was represented in various activities of the Moscow International Education Fair (18-21 April 2018) by Dr. Sergei GONCHARENKO, Deputy Secretary General.