



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2018 (EMD)
(Burgas, 31 May – 1 June 2018)**

The BSEC PERMIS took part in the “*European Maritime Day 2018*” (EMD), upon the invitation of the DG MARE (European Commission), held in Burgas, Republic of Bulgaria, on 31 May – 1 June 2018. The event was co-organized by the European Commission and the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union.

The BSEC PERMIS was involved in the organization of two Workshops: one dealing with “Sustainability in Marine and Coastal Tourism”, and the second Workshop, dealing with “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture”.

The EMD was capped by a Black Sea Ministerial Meeting to which the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, was invited as an official guest. All Black Sea littoral States plus Moldova participated in this high-level event, during which the “Ministerial Declaration Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea” (Burgas Declaration) was adopted. The Declaration expresses the positive will of the participating States for developing a regionally owned and promoted common maritime agenda for the Black Sea.

In his speech during the Ministerial meeting Ambassador CHRISTIDES stressed the significance of the “Blue Growth” as an open and real bottom-up endeavor. It is focused on the individual experiences and needs and the ambition is to build a common, regionally-owned agenda, through concrete schemes and projects.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General participated also in the high-level debate on "Big Bang Black Sea", which examined the current state of maritime cooperation in the region, as well as future perspectives and targets.

Dr. Sergei GONCHARENKO, PERMIS Deputy Secretary General and Mrs. Rositsa STOEVA, PERMIS Executive Manager used the opportunity of their participation in the EMD for promoting the visibility of the BSEC and establishing working contacts with representatives of various international organizations and companies, that presented their activities and products during the EMD.