



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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### **PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES AND OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM**

**(Varna, 14 June 2018)**

The “*Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States*” organized by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria, was held in Varna on 14 June 2018.

The Meeting of the Ministers was preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Tourism.

The Ministers and Heads of delegations of the BSEC Member States exchanged views on how to better promote Tourism cooperation among the BSEC Member States and adopted “The Joint Varna Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.” In the Declaration, the BSEC Member States have underlined their intention to work together in the framework of the Organization to strengthen and bolster Tourism cooperation among its Member States, as it can help boost Tourism flows between destinations to make sustainable Tourism one of the major drivers of socio-economic development in the BSEC Region. In this connection, they supported a number of concrete proposals and initiatives aimed at encouraging the Ministries and/or National Authorities in charge of Tourism in the BSEC Member States to better coordinate their actions in order to position the BSEC Region as an attractive multi-destination Tourism area.

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, stressed in his statement the need for concrete deeds and project-focused action, appealed for a greater “sense of ownership” towards the BSEC Organization from its Member States and asked the latter to consider the Organization as a useful vehicle for regional tourism cooperation, taking advantage of the possibilities it can offer in this respect.