



**PRESS RELEASE
ON BSEC-FAO WORKSHOP
ON PROMOTION OF AGRI-FOOD TRADE IN THE BSEC REGION
(BSEC Headquarters, 10-11 July 2018)**

A BSEC-FAO Workshop on the promotion of Agri-food trade in the BSEC Region was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 10 -11 July 2018. The Workshop was organized by the *Permanent International Secretariat* (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in cooperation with the *Food and Agriculture Organization* of the United Nations (FAO).

The Workshop was the second “chapter” under the BSEC - FAO *Letter of Agreement* (LoA), signed between the two sides in December 2017, following the elaboration of a detailed Report and analysis on intra-BSEC trade in Agri-food, which constituted the first “chapter” of the Agreement.

The participants of the Workshop followed a detailed presentation on the aims of the joint FAO - BSEC project and, especially, on all the data collected and analyzed in the above Report, which was prepared by an international consultant, under the supervision of the BSEC PERMIS. During the second part of the Workshop, participants shared their views and thoughts on the situation prevailing today and on issues that constitute the main constraints to further enhancing the intra-regional trade in agri-food; they discussed possible ways to tackle the main obstacles and presented various recommendations and suggestions for successfully addressing these issues.

Following the Workshop, a number of viable and important for the region ideas/recommendations will be carefully selected by PERMIS, in coordination with FAO, from the main recommendations and conclusions arrived at in the Workshop, with the view to formulate a final “Project Proposal” aiming at promoting Agri-food trade in the BSEC Region; the elaboration of this project proposal constitutes the third and last “chapter” under the above mentioned Letter of Agreement.