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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE MEETING OF THE BSEC PERMIS SECRETARY GENERAL
WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF GEORGIA H.E. MR. GIORGI KVIRIKASHVILI

On the sidelines of the 1st “Tbilisi Silk Road Forum” (Tbilisi, 15-16 October 2015), BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES was received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia H.E. Mr. Giorgi KVIRIKASHVILI, on 16 October 2015. Present at the meeting were also the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Mr. Mikheil JANELIDZE and the Director of the Department for International Economic Affairs of the said Ministry Mr. Alexandre KHVTISIASHVILI.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES informed his interlocutors on the latest developments concerning the activities of the BSEC PERMIS, including the outcome of the Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (New York, 29 September 2015); efforts to render the Organization more effective and efficient by, among others, introducing changes wherever needed; as well as issues related to the budget of the Secretariat. He underlined the importance of the support by Member States for helping BSEC achieve its objectives and goals and mentioned that the forthcoming 25th Anniversary of the Organization in 2017 is the perfect occasion to introduce a new era in BSEC’s life, closer to the expectations of its Founding Members.

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr. KVIRIKASHVILI voiced the desire of Georgia to see the implementation of the necessary changes, so that the Organization can function in a more productive way, since it is the most important regional entity promoting economic cooperation in the Black Sea area. He underlined that concrete activities of BSEC in the wider Black Sea region are complementary to efforts for establishing the modern-day “Silk Road” and expressed the keen interest of Georgia to support initiatives in this direction.

Both sides agreed that an enhanced cooperation and synergy of BSEC with other international organizations and entities, mainly the European Union, could have beneficial effects on the over-all performance of the Organization.