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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE PRESENTATION OF
THE VOLUME “ENERGY VIEW OF BSEC COUNTRIES – 2015, SPECIAL EDITION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY TRENDS”**

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, participated as Co-Chairperson at the official presentation of the Volume “*Energy View of BSEC Countries – 2015, Special Edition on Climate Change Policy Trends*”, which took place at the premises of the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the Athens National and Kapodistrian University Campus, on 25 February 2016.

Among the participants of the event were Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions in Athens, policy makers in the field of energy and representatives of interested private companies.

The 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP21, which took place in Paris in December 2015, in its final document (the “*Paris Agreement*”), defines a framework of actions that are enhancing the green transformation of the global economy. In this context, the “*Special Edition on Climate Change Policy Trends*” of the BSEC Countries reflects the efforts of academic institutions, mainly from the BSEC Member States, to develop policy mixtures and trace potential, perspectives and opportunities, in the framework of their national policies. The edition consists of 14 chapters, corresponding to the 12 BSEC Member States plus Estonia and Kazakhstan and contains valuable data concerning each country’s profile, especially with reference to their national climate-change policies.

In his statement, the other Co-chair of the event and PROMITHEAS Net Coordinator, Professor Dimitrios MAVRAKIS stated that a significant potential exists for cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency/conservation, renewable energy sources and decentralized energy production that can be linked to common BSEC projects with the support of international financial institutions and instruments, including the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank.

BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador CHRISTIDES underlined that the PERMIS would do its best to ensure the widest possible distribution of the newly presented special edition, to benefit of the stakeholders and decision-makers in the field of energy in the BSEC Member States. He asserted that the accumulated data and information included in the volume offers a huge potential of concrete synergies and should be used as a vital instrument for planning investments, concrete proposals and for promoting regional policies.

The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General expressed the belief that the next stage of efforts by Member States in the field of climate change / energy efficiency and conservation should be an annual (or biannual) event, to be hosted each time by a different BSEC Member State, in order to bring together all energy stakeholders and promote concrete projects of regional importance. He confirmed that the BSEC PERMIS would be promoting the proposal of a “***BSEC Green Energy Investment Forum***”, together with the proposal on the establishment of a “***BSEC Strategic Green Alliance between Policy Makers, Academia and Entrepreneurship***”. The aim of the establishment of this Alliance would be to benefit the economies of the BSEC Member States from the emerging new markets and clean technologies, facilitating the engagement of regional stakeholders.

During the event, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) expressed the vivid interest of the BSTDB and other international financial institutions to participate in projects pertaining to climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

Secretary General CHRISTIDES expressed the sense of pride felt by the BSEC PERMIS on the occasion of the presentation event, as it constitutes the continuation of a project which was initially financed by the BSEC Project Development Fund in 2004-2005, that developed over the years into the important PROMITHEAS Network, managed by Professor MAVRAKIS and KEPA.