

PRESS RELEASE

Participation of the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission in the Meeting of the Ministers of the BSEC Member States in Charge of Transport

(Belgrade, 1st November 2016)

Petar MARGIĆ, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission participated in the Meeting of the Ministers of the BSEC Member States in Charge of Transport, held on 1st November 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Miodrag POLEDICA, State Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia and attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States: Republic of Albania, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.

The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body, whereas the representative of the European Commission and the Republic of Italy as the BSEC Observers.

Mr. Margic, representing the Danube Commission took part in the Meeting as the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and International Road Transport Union and the International Union of Railways were Guests at the Meeting.



H.E. Mr. Miodrag POLEDICA, State Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia and H.E. Mr. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS welcomed the participants then the Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted.

The Heads of Delegations delivered their general statements and discussed the adopted agenda items. During the meeting the Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States adopted the



“Belgrade Joint Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region – BSEC Region, Integrate to Grow, Partnership for the Future”, which was unofficially called the new “*Bible/Koran*” for BSEC Member States.

The representative of Ukraine made a special statement regarding Belgrade Declaration.

Mr. Margic expressed his opinion that the meeting was highly interesting from the point of view of the DC: “Silk Way” (Silk Road) was mentioned several times, standing for the connection between Asia and Europe and multimodal transport is a base for this connection.

6 Members are common for BSEC and DC (Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova) and 3 Members of BSEC are Observers in the DC (Georgia, Greece and Turkey).

The participants agreed that multimodal transport must be developed in the TEN-T Corridors as no ship, road transport or rail can connect Asia and Europe without passing the territory of BSEC and DC Member States.

The EU underlined that this BSEC region had a big potential and defined the most important tasks as follows: to remove the bottlenecks in navigation and administration as well as to take care about safety and security.

