



**ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**  
**Permanent International Secretariat**  
*Istanbul / Turkey*

**TO : Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States**

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The Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States and has the honor to inform on the following:

The Secretary General held consultations at the State Department on 22 September with the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State, Mrs. Judith GARBER, Mr. David MERKEL and Mr. Matt BRYZA. Senior Officials of the State Department were also present. Both sides exchanged views on the situation in the Black Sea region. The SG informed his US interlocutors on recent developments within BSEC and expressed his satisfaction on the active participation of the US in the BSEC areas of cooperation as an observer. He also informed them that PERMIS had recently received a project proposal from the US on organizing a course for BSEC experts on combating environmental crimes to which he will reply after consulting the Member States. Consideration was also given to organizing under the incoming Armenian Chairmanship, conferences on Energy Security and Trafficking in Persons.

The SG also held a meeting with representatives of other US governmental departments and agencies that included USAID, the Department of Defense, the FBI and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and briefed them on the current activities of BSEC. The representative of USAID informed the SG on the study that it had conducted on the BSEC electric grid and mentioned that the second phase of the study will be concluded in November. Answering a question of the SG, the USAID representative confirmed that the electrical grid is a viable economic project that could be completed by the year 2020.

The talks were held in a very friendly and constructive atmosphere that allowed both sides to better understand each other.

The Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of BSEC avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Istanbul, 25 September 2008

Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States

