

**OPENING ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOS RALLIS  
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**AT THE OPENING SESSION  
OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON RISK MANAGEMENT IN ENERGY - 2022**

*Online, 22 September 2022*

- Ladies and Gentlemen, I first of all thank the organizers for inviting me to address the plenary session of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Risk Management in Energy-2022.
- I have the honor to represent the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), a regional international entity, which promotes economic cooperation – in the widest sense of the term – among its Member States.
- During its 30 years, BSEC has established a culture of dialogue and understanding and also useful networks among state and private institutions, thus becoming an important instrument for cooperation and coordination in the wider Black Sea region.
- BSEC is today the oldest and institutionally the most mature intergovernmental regional vehicle for the promotion of economic dialogue and coordination serving as a very significant Transport and, especially, Energy hub.
- Energy risk management, industrial, informational and ecological safety are issues that highly affect our every-day life. Therefore this Conference's agenda is of increased importance.
- Let me take this opportunity to briefly share with you what we have been doing within our Organization in order to promote the **Energy Transition** in the BSEC Region with a focus on a Green Energy.
- The key priorities for BSEC activity in the field of energy which are **set by the BSEC Economic Agenda** and guided by the *BSEC 2018 Green Energy Strategy* are the issues of energy security, sustainability, the possibility of harmonization of the national legislation of the BSEC Member States, strengthening of the cooperation between BSEC and other international organizations and agencies active in the field of energy.
- We pay special attention to encouraging Green Energy investments in the BSEC Region. Our aim is to create a modern energy infrastructure that includes areas with poor access to energy and to encouraging local entrepreneurship in green energy production.
- Of great support for our Member States in implementing the Strategy is the ***BSEC Green Energy Network (BSEC-GEN)*** created in 2015 for exchanging information and sharing experiences among the administrative bodies mandated to promote Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency, and research and academic institutions active in these areas.
- The activities of the Network are coordinated by the Athens University ***Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA)*** under the supervision of the BSEC PERMIS.
- Thanks to this cooperation with KEPA and its Green Energy Network BSEC accumulated valuable experience in formulation of concrete projects of regional scope. So far three projects in the field of energy were carried out and financed by the BSEC Project Development Fund. Another project was financed through a grant from the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF) and implemented by the UNECE.

- In close cooperation with PERMIS, the Coordinator of the Network regularly organizes ***BSEC Green Energy Investment Fora***, bringing together high-level officials, policy makers and market players, with the purpose to boost investments in Green Energy sector in our Member States and stimulate regional cooperation in the promotion of Green Energy. The 8<sup>th</sup> such Forum took place in Athens exactly one year ago. The next one is planned for October 12, 2022.
- Investments in Green Energy are crucial for the modernization of the energy sector and for achieving the SDG 7 Goal and, more generally, for economic growth, job creation and increasing energy security.
- BSEC is expanding cooperation in the field of energy with international organizations and institutions such as IRENA, the International Energy Charter, (which has the observer status in our Organization), International Energy Agency and UNECE.
- In order to adequately manage existing negative impacts and extraordinary situations affecting the Energy Market an enhanced regional cooperation and a further regional coordination mechanisms in this sector are becoming more and more important.
- While concluding my opening address I would like to express my conviction that this Conference will be another opportunity to exchange views on finding innovative and appropriate approaches to international cooperation in the field of energy transition especially in light of current regional developments and challenges.