

**Joint Communiqué**  
**on The Results of The Third Meeting of The Presidents of Academies of**  
**Sciences of The BSEC Member States**

Sofia, 15 May 2026

Upon the kind invitation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Third Meeting of the Presidents of the Academies of Sciences of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 15 May 2026, under the topic “Artificial Intelligence as a catalyst for scientific cooperation in the BSEC Region”. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States, including *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine*, representatives of Istanbul University, BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, and the PABSEC International Secretariat.

In a spirit of constructive dialogue, the participants exchanged views on strengthening collaboration in science and education to foster sustainable development and innovation across the wider Black Sea Region. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to unlocking the scientific and educational potential of BSEC Member States through multilateral cooperation, guided by principles of mutual benefit, inclusivity, and shared prosperity.

The participants underscored the critical role of scientific collaboration in addressing global and regional challenges, including climate change, digital transformation, and socio-economic disparities. They emphasized the importance of joint initiatives to advance research, promote interdisciplinary studies, and enhance knowledge exchange. Key priorities included:

1. **Advancing scientific cooperation in the region:** more frequent meetings of the academies in the region for presenting activities in different scientific fields in order to identify priority topics for applying with project proposals under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and other EU or international programmes.
2. **Enhancing bilateral cooperation:** promoting exchange of personnel, information and publications among representatives of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States and leading universities in the Region.

The meeting welcomed progress made since the First Meeting of the Presidents of Academies of Sciences on 14 February 2024 and the Second Meeting of the Presidents of Academies of Sciences on 27 June 2025, particularly in fostering dialogue and initiating cooperative frameworks. The participants expressed strong support for the objectives outlined in the BSEC “Economic Agenda: Towards a Sustainable Future of the Wider Black Sea Area,” adopted on 15 December 2023, and committed to aligning scientific and educational efforts with its vision.

The participants agreed to further explore the establishment of a permanent mechanism for coordination among BSEC Academies of Sciences, including the creation of a working group to oversee the implementation of joint projects and monitor progress.

Special appreciation was extended to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for hosting the event and providing a platform for meaningful exchange. The participants recognized the importance of regular meetings to sustain momentum and deepen partnerships, expressing confidence that

continued collaboration will elevate the Black Sea Region as a hub of scientific excellence and innovation.

It was decided to hold the Fourth Meeting of the Presidents of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States in the Republic of Moldova in 2027, with specific details to be finalized through consultations among the Member States.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Bulgaria for its warm hospitality and reaffirmed their dedication to advancing science and education for the benefit of the Black Sea Region and beyond.