



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 15 September 2026

Participation of ICBSS at the 90th Thessaloniki International Fair

From 5 to 13 September 2026, the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated at the **90th Thessaloniki International Fair**, held in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The **Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF)** is an annual event since 1926 and Greece's leading trade fair. TIF serves as a platform for political dialogue, business outreach, and technological innovation, while enabling connections between governments, investors, businesses, and citizens. This year's edition celebrated the Fair's **100th anniversary**, featuring Japan as the honoured country for 2026. The event welcomed more than 1,000 exhibitors from 25 different countries and was divided into 11 thematic sections, accompanied by various side events.

On the occasion of the **Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office** at the **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)** (1.7 – 31.12.2026), the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) joined the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) and the other BSEC Related Bodies, i.e. the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly (PABSEC), the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), and the BSEC Business Council, in the first-ever booth of the BSEC institutions in the Thessaloniki International Fair.

The interactive booth, hosted at the Pavilion of the honoured country, featured informational materials and digital media from the BSEC institutions, with the aim to promoting the Organization and its contribution to fostering economic and trade cooperation in the wider Black Sea region.

The ICBSS was represented by Director General, **Mr. Georgios Mitrakos**, and Research and Policy Development Manager, **Ms. Georgia Chantzi**. The participation of the ICBSS at the 90th Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, provided a valuable opportunity to engage with new audiences, as well as to highlight the Centre's work, initiatives, and synergies in the wider Black Sea region, through dialogue and direct contact with the public.

This outreach initiative aligns with ICBSS' commitment to advancing knowledge, shaping policy, and connecting regions in the wider Black Sea region and beyond.

For more information about the ICBSS, please visit <https://icbss.org/>

About the ICBSS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and its think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.