



CEI PD PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Sarajevo, May 31, 2016

FINAL DECLARATION

Extremely respecting the CEI as the most authentic and oldest initiative in the region, which brings together EU Member States as well as countries involved in the EU accession process, and the crucial role that the CEI played during the last 27 years in strengthening political dialogue, regional cooperation and European integration between its member states;

Confirming the European integration as one of CEI main goals in order to reflect the problems of the EU integration of the Western Balkans in the „non-enlargement“ period by 2020, and the willingness of EU member states that participate in this organization to provide support to accession countries by sharing the best models in identified priority areas;

Particularly emphasizing the importance of CEI as the body for promoting further enlargement of the EU and a strong partner in strengthening regional integration and macro-regional cooperation in Europe;

Stressing the added value of macro-regional strategies as an integrative framework that includes EU and non-EU Member States in order to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and to assist candidate and potential candidate countries that are CEI members to join the EU;

Especially highlighting the need of raising the level of infrastructure development of CEI Member States as a very important component in the process of European integration;

Recommending that the CEI promotes the development of a transport and connectivity infrastructure master plan for the Alpine Adriatic-Balkan area, also in coordination with the European Union and particularly the coordinators of the corridors of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)



Parliamentary Committee of the CEI PD:

Calls EU institutions and other international organizations on closer cooperation with the CEI in order to assist the countries to reach EU standards and strengthen the effectiveness of macro-regional strategies;

Expresses concern over the increasing sense of fatigue within the EU regarding its enlargement and in particular calls on CEI Member States that are already in the EU to continue to work and overcome this problem, i.e., to provide full support to countries aspiring to the EU membership; also through specific enlargement – related activities during Slovakia’s EU Council Presidency strongly emphasizing that without the Western Balkans EU enlargement process is not completed in any case;

Also expresses awareness that West Balkan countries aspiring to join the European Union are expected to approve and implement convincing reform programs in order to meet EU accession criteria and to develop effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation among themselves and with all EU member countries, in a spirit of communality which is typical of the European common home;

Welcomes the renewed engagement of the European Union and of such important multilateral programs as the Berlin Process in the Western Balkans. These policies will be extremely useful also in view of the pre-accession actions they envisage. Such policies, the implementation of which should be speeded up and focused mainly on connectivity (power grids, road and railway infrastructure, maritime transport and ports, telecommunications) will require convincing EU financial support and equally convincing general program sharing by all States involved;

Believes that, for the purposes of the above mentioned shared programs, the overall approach of the connectivity master plan (power grids, road and railway infrastructure, maritime transport and ports, telecommunications) should be promptly defined for the Alpine Adriatic-Balkan area and that the countries involved, also with the technical and operational support of the CEI Secretariat and European corridor coordinators, should promptly submit to the European Commission a joint draft master plan for co-funding purposes;

Supports the CEI Action Plan for period 2014 - 2016 as a concise and ambitious instrument for guiding and focusing the activities of the CEI and encourages the efforts for developing a new modern CEI Action Plan for period 2017 - 2020, taking into account all the new challenges that the region faces, in particular the European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;



Takes into consideration the role of the European funds for development of energy infrastructure projects in Central and Eastern Europe in order to achieve Western European level of diversity, which would make a significant contribution to overall energy security of Europe; particularly emphasizes the importance of supporting green energy projects;

Supports the role of the CEI in strengthening better integration of the region with the rest of Europe through strong infrastructure transport projects;

Affirms the role of national parliaments of CEI Member States in the implementation of the appropriate legislation relating to the EU macro-regional strategies which provide opportunity for greater cross-border cooperation;

Notes that macro-regional strategies are a dynamic process and remain open for future events; calls on EU institutions as well as other international organizations and the CEI to invite the Republic of Macedonia to be fully integrated into the Adriatic-Ionian and the Danube strategy, which is an additional step towards the effectiveness of macro-regional strategies;

Emphasizes that the EUSAIR and EUSDR are of interest to all EU Member States and have the capacity to contribute to further integration of the internal market, stability of the region, strengthening of cooperation between EU and non-EU Member States, especially in terms of supporting the countries in the enlargement process on their path towards EU;

Strongly supports high-level cooperation between CEI Member States in addressing common challenges as well as exploiting opportunities for better implementation of the main objectives such as: protecting and managing of ecosystems, improving connectivity in the region, promoting sustainable economic development and creating business and employment opportunities;

Strongly supports the cooperation of the CEI with the other international organizations on all issues of importance for CEI Member States, including sustainable development, strengthening security as well as the fight against terrorism, transnational organized crime and corruption.

Welcomes the fact that the CEI got the expertise for the managing EU projects and funds and became a valuable institution for implementation of EU projects; in this regard, calls upon enhanced cooperation between existing instruments and EU funds in the implementation of the priorities emphasized in the strategies;



Welcomes and further encourages a strong cooperation of the CEI with EBRD, Chinese and other EU investors and non-EU investors, aimed to better infrastructure development dynamics of CEI Member States; in this respect, expresses the satisfaction for holding the CEI meeting with EBRD and Chinese officials in Trieste on May 19, 2016;

Strongly supports further enhancing of East partnership in the spirit of mutual interest, better relations, understanding and cooperation in economic, cultural, scientific and technical field;

Calls upon all CEI Member States and their national parliaments to contribute to the improvement of legislation related to better business environment, easier access to public services and avoidance of double taxation;

Supports the efforts for enhancing the CEI business dimension as an additional instrument for promoting the regional cooperation, increasing the competitiveness of SMEs, and expects the closer cooperation with EBRD;

Confirms the importance of deepening cooperation in the field of research and innovation in order to increase awareness of new technologies in all CEI Member States;

Points out that employment-oriented education and vocational training as well as the use of opportunities for youth mobility in the EU Member States can be the right solution to address the high unemployment rate among young people;

Confirms the need for further strengthening of the cooperation between various components of the CEI, particularly the Parliamentary and Governmental component, in order to direct the activities and achieve the maximum effect as well as the cooperation with the EU institutions and other appropriate organizations;

Lastly, pledges to focus on the Northern and Baltic region of the CEI, with respect to the forthcoming working session of the parliamentary dimension.