



Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

During 2020 Montenegro will support activities of the Central-European Initiative (CEI) in creating sustainable and prosperous region, while promoting a credible European perspective for those CEI Member States aspiring to join the EU. During the CEI Presidency, Montenegro will be committed to strengthening good neighbourly relations, thus contributing to a constructive exchange of views and ideas, as well as enhancing dialogue and project-oriented cooperation among the CEI Member States. Through our active and constructive engagement, activities in key areas of the regional cooperation will be implemented, thus contributing to the economic growth and development of the region as a whole. Our priorities and planned activities are aimed at further promotion of the role of the Initiative as a relevant regional and global actor. Given the significant potential of CEI funds and instruments, our Presidency will particularly focus on further strengthening of the Initiative project dimension with an aim to encourage greater regional project cooperation.

The priorities of the Montenegrin Presidency are in accordance with the goals and objectives of the CEI Action Plan for the period 2018/2020, as one of the most important strategic documents of the Initiative, while, at the same time, they reflect our interests at national and regional level.

The priorities of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020 will be as follows:

✚ Science diplomacy

The Presidency will promote international scientific cooperation and activities aimed at supporting both scientific and technological innovation. Particular focus will be on promoting the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies in Southeast Europe (SEEIIST), as one of the most significant development projects in this region. By carrying out this activity, Montenegro will ensure a continuity in the work of Initiative, along with the activities performed by the Italian CEI Presidency 2019 in this area.

✚ Environmental protection

Activities of our Presidency will be focused on efficient natural resources conservation and environmental protection, as well as on sustainable development. The Presidency will also pay special attention to waste management as one of the cornerstones of sustainable environmental management. Exchange of experience and good practice in this area will contribute to identification of the best environmental solutions.

Connectivity

The Presidency will focus on transport connectivity as one of the preconditions for both political stability and economic development. It will further promote the role of Transport Community as the key mechanism for cooperation in the Western Balkans. The event will be an opportunity for an open dialogue on implications of the Poznan Summit 2019 on national transport programs, progress achieved in priority fields and future activities and possibilities for regional cooperation.

Creative and cultural industries

Creative and culture industries contribute greatly to intercultural dialogue, strengthening of cultural heritage and promotion of cultural values in a modern and unique way. The Presidency's activities will further promote cultural and artistic creativity, as well as potentials and values of the creative industries in the region, making stronger links among countries in this field which is an important asset for the economy.

Public Administration Reform

As the public administration reform represents one of the key priorities in the EU integration process, the exchange of knowledge and experience in this area is crucial for achieving European standards. Fostering dialogue and cooperation regarding the solutions and improvements within public administration reform will finally result with an efficient public administration, characterized by citizens' confidence in its work.

Considering the current Chairmanship of the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) of the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), the South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN), and the upcoming Chairmanship of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will perform activities in order to promote synergies among different actors of regional fora, with an aim to make regional actions more consolidated and effective.

Calendar of Events of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

Montenegro will organize events within the CEI governmental, parliamentary and economic dimension. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a coordinator of the Presidency, will organize:

- ✦ **Six meetings of the Committee of National Coordinators** (three in Montenegro, the others will be held in London, Trieste and Brussels);
- ✦ **Two meetings of Ministries of Foreign Affairs** (a regular meeting in Montenegro and an informal meeting on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the Cabinet of the President of the Government will organize the **Meeting of the Heads of Government (CEI Summit)**, as the most important and closing event of the Presidency.

The Parliament of Montenegro will organize events within the parliamentary dimension of the CEI:

- ✦ **Parliamentary Assembly meeting;**
- ✦ **Parliamentary Committee meeting.**

Within Montenegrin CEI Presidency, around 20 activities will be performed during the year.

The relevant governmental institutions will organize the following events:

- ✦ **Expert meeting on science diplomacy organized by the Ministry of Science;**

Topic: Preparing a project application for the Road Map of the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI), as a part of the second phase of the SEEIIST project.

- ✦ **Ministerial Conference on Waste Management organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development;**

Topic: Defining priority activities for a regional approach to waste management and preparation of a regional project, to be funded by a national allocation and/or Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA), or other international environmental funds.

- ✦ **Ministerial Conference on Transport, organized by the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs;**

Topic: The Transport Community as the Key Mechanism for Cooperation in the Western Balkans.

- ✦ **Expert conference on Culture, organized by the Ministry of Culture;**

Topic: The promotion of culture and the field of creative industries.

- ✦ **Ministerial Conference on the Public Administration Reform, organized by the Ministry of Public Administration;**

Topic: Public administration tailored to citizens

- ✦ **Economic Forum, organized by the Chamber of Commerce;**

- ✦ Considering the importance of promoting the potential of Youth in the region, organisation of an event in Italy in the first quarter of 2020 is planned (in cooperation with the previous CEI Presidency and the CEI Secretariat).

Indicative Calendar of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency 2020

Date	Place	Event
<i>February 12</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	1st CNC Meeting
<i>March 31</i>	<i>London</i>	2nd CNC Meeting EBRD Steering Committee Meeting
<i>II quarter</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Expert meeting on Scientific Diplomacy
<i>May</i>	<i>Brussels</i>	3rd CNC Meeting
<i>May</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	CEI PD Parliamentary Committee
<i>June</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	4th CNC Meeting Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs
<i>September</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Ministerial Conference on Transport
<i>September</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	CEI PD Parliamentary Assembly
<i>Mid of September</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Ministerial Conference on Public Administration Reform
<i>September</i>	<i>New York</i>	Informal meeting of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs
<i>September 29-30</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Ministerial Conference on Waste Management
<i>The beginning of October</i>	<i>Trieste</i>	5th CNC Meeting
<i>IV quarter</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Expert meeting in the field of Culture
<i>December</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	Business Forum
<i>December</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	6th CNC Meeting CEI Summit