



**MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE CEI PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION**
Hybrid format (Physical/Online)
Herceg Novi, 14-15 October 2021

FINAL DECLARATION

Reaffirming the founding principles and mission of the Central European Initiative;

Recognising the CEI as an important forum of regional cooperation;

Emphasising the importance of regional cooperation based on an all-inclusive approach and equal footing;

Recalling the conclusions from the high-level events: Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of CEI Heads of Government (15 May 2020), the Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (24 September 2020 and 23 June 2021) and commending the adoption of documents that reaffirm cooperation, solidarity and trust as the most efficient responses to the pandemic;

Emphasizing that global problems require global responses, international cooperation and coordination at all levels, including the parliamentary one, are a key asset;

Stressing the important role of the CEI in the process of European integration and countering common challenges;

Underlining that the COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge in recent history and no country, including the CEI members, is immune from its effects;

Recognizing the importance of promoting international cooperation both in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms as tools for multiplying the governmental actors' means to solve wide or urgent problems;

Commending the efforts of the Montenegrin CEI Presidency in adjusting promptly to the new circumstances and implementing timely and efficient activities in order to mitigate multiple consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;



Expressing our sincere solidarity with the families of victims of COVID-19 pandemic and with the people all over the world who have been affected in one way or another by these unprecedented times;

We, the participants of the Central European Initiative – Parliamentary Dimension, Parliamentary Assembly, held in Herceg Novi on 14-15 October 2021

Recognize the CEI's role as an essential element in achieving integrated connectivity in infrastructure and trade between the European Union and its partners from the Eastern Neighbourhood, we encourage the CEI Member States to facilitate the expansion of economic and infrastructural inter-connectivity, especially in the transport and logistics sector;

Urge the governments of the Member States of the CEI to intensify collaboration aiming to facilitate and incentivise trade flows between countries of the CEI area;

Underline the importance of strategic cooperation with a view to investing in infrastructure projects in the CEI area, we agreed on the need to strengthen the CEI's Business Dimension in order to promote trade and investment in the region;

Express the need for ensuring continuous financial support aimed towards development of sustainable tourism;

Appeal to the CEI Member States to remove the barriers in order to enable access of local micro and small enterprises to the market;

Invite the CEI Member States to stimulate tourism businesses in increasing their linkages to local economy and local producers through their supply chain;

Encourage the participants to explore possible ways of cooperation in facilitating international travels and tourism through innovative solutions and mechanisms such as mutual recognition of vaccine certificates through bilateral arrangements;

Commend performed activities and the readiness of Montenegro to lead the initiative, as the first country to preside the CEI for two consecutive years;

Extend its best wishes to the upcoming Bulgarian presidency of the Central European Initiative.