



PRIORITIES OF THE MOLDOVAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2023

The Republic of Moldova is strongly committed to regional cooperation. It firmly believes that the instruments of regional cooperation are instrumental in tackling today's challenges, especially those linked to the EU enlargement process, the war on Ukraine and its impacts across the region, the disinformation, the recovery from the recent pandemic and the sustainable development.

Along these lines, and with the aim to be helpful in jointly addressing them, the Republic of Moldova undertook the CEI Presidency, with the intention to accomplish this important task with dedication and enthusiasm. In this endeavour, the Republic of Moldova also counts on the strong support and expertise of the CEI-Executive Secretariat. In addition, the Moldovan CEI Presidency will continue the work of the previous Presidency/ies, providing continuity to what was already done and in furthering the CEI's mission, also considering the CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023 and capitalising on the established partnerships.

In this regard, the Moldovan CEI Presidency during its mandate will mainly focus on the following **strategic objectives** of transversal character, to be tackled throughout all Programme of the Presidency:

➤ **European integration of the non-EU CEI countries**

The CEI membership is currently composed of members and candidates only to the EU. Therefore, the Presidency will work on furthering the European integration agenda.

➤ **Support to Ukraine**

As a direct neighbour of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova will continue the work of the previous Presidency in providing further support to the country, both political and tangible. It will also continue to tackle the multiple effects of the war on the CEI region.

➤ **Recovery from the pandemic (health, economic, social)**

The pandemic left numerous consequences and open issues, which need to be tackled through a coordinated approach. First and foremost, the health aspect needs to be further addressed. Likewise, the economic recovery through new possible models of growth could be explored.

➤ **Sustainable development**

The UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs remains to be the right path towards a more sustainable future. Therefore, the Presidency will continue promoting the UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Through implementation of concrete activities in these issues of regional interest, the Republic of Moldova will be committed to strengthening the multilateral approach to the challenges encouraging constructive exchange of views and ideas. In this regard, the Presidency will further promote regional dialogue as a key factor in strengthening the stability, security and prosperity, in tackling the political challenges as well as in defining new opportunities, by also supporting activities of the CEI-Executive Secretariat.

In this framework, the following **priorities** around which focused activities will be developed are envisaged:

➤ **Increased political dialogue**

The Presidency will continue with the promotion of the political dialogue on the current challenges in the framework of the well-established platforms (MFA Meetings, Parliamentary Committee, CNC Meetings, side-events).

➤ **Economic recovery**

The Presidency will further promote regional cooperation for the recovery of the region from economic point of view with focus on exploring together new more sustainable economy models.

➤ **Strengthened connectivity**

Bearing in mind that the transport links are one of the preconditions for economic development, the Presidency will promote the broader concept of the connectivity in the region.

➤ **Health recovery**

The challenges in recovering from the pandemic are huge, having to deal with numerous repercussions on young and vulnerable. In this regard, the Presidency will further promote to cooperation on health-related issues in cooperation with WHO.

➤ **Scientific cooperation**

The Presidency will be devoted to enhancing the scientific cooperation between the countries in the field of Science Diplomacy.

➤ **Cultural relations**

The Presidency will work for deepening the cultural relations as a factor of unity.

➤ **Young people**

The Presidency firmly believes in the potential of young people as drivers of change. Therefore, the role of the young people in tackling the current challenges will be addressed.

**DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE MOLDOVAN CEI PRESIDENCY
2023***

Date	Location	Event
14 February	Trieste	1 st CNC Meeting
20 April	Brussels	2 nd CNC Meeting
22-23 May	Chisinau	Parliamentary Committee
29 May	Istanbul	CEI-BSEC Interaction (Troika)
30 May	Istanbul	3 rd CNC Meeting
July	New York	Side-event on the occasion of HLPPF 2023
late September	New York	Informal MFA Meeting (working breakfast)
September (tbc)	Brussels	Experts meeting on Health
October (tbc)	Chisinau	Sectorial Meeting on Education and Youth
Autumn	Trieste	Meeting on Primary Health Care
Autumn	tbc	Experts Meeting on Connectivity
October	Chisinau	Moldova Business Week / Diplomatic Panel Regional Economic Recovery
October	Chisinau	CEI Local Dimension (Culture Routes Promotion)
October	Chisinau	CEI Parliamentary Assembly
November	Chisinau	4 th CNC Meeting
November	Chisinau	MFA Meeting
December	tbc	5 th CNC Meeting

*additional events might be envisaged