

## CEI PD Parliamentary Committee Meeting

Tirana, 30 June -1 July 2024

### JOINT STATEMENT

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative was held in Tirana, on the 1st of July 2024, under the chairmanship of the President of the CEI PD, Mr. Etjen XHAFAJ.

The meeting was attended by the parliamentary delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

After exchanging views on parliaments' role in the Oversight of the Executive and in the EU Integration process, the participants issued the following Joint Statement:

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Affirming the role of the CEI and its strong cooperation with members in sharing ideas, as an effective and important forum of regional cooperation, based on fundamental values that the CEI and the EU share.

Recognizing regional cooperation within CEI as essential in sharing experiences and supporting each other, with the aim of achieving progress in the EU enlargement process, which is based on fair principles and own merits of candidate countries.

Stressing the importance of continuous cooperation among EU member states and aspirant states to the EU as a step forward in strengthening the EU project.

Underlining that the international conflicts among states or other international subjects harm dramatically not only Europe's peace and security, but also the international order, condemning Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine.

Shares the EU's unwavering support for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states within their internationally recognized borders as well as their inherent right of self-defense in line with the UN Charter.

Reiterates the importance of reinforcing the role of Parliament as crucial for the preservation of democratic principles of representation and public participation.

Stresses the importance of the continuous oversight of the executive, the accountability of public expenditure and monitoring of public institutions.

Considers of great importance the public participation in the EU integration process through the involvement of stakeholders and Civil Society in the national decision-making process.

Has in mind the parliament's role in the information and raising awareness among the citizens on the opportunities and responsibilities stemming from the shared objective to push forward the European integration process.

Considers that the EU integration path is the only way to reach the democratic standards, preserve the European values and prosper together in peace and security.

Encourages all member states to strengthen CEI Parliamentary Dimension through envisaging meetings in Brussels with the aim to establish cooperation with the EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, through mutual participation in meetings, as well as of its structures. Underlines in this respect the importance of the work carried out by the Convention for the strengthening of the Central European Initiative, established at the Conference of the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees and National Delegations to the Parliamentary Dimension of the CEI Member States, held in Trieste on 13 October 2023, which will end in Rome on July 5th with the approval of the draft Recommendations for the Strengthening of the Central European Initiative.

Calls on member states to revitalize the CEI Troika at the Governmental and Parliamentary level and envisaging coordination meetings between these two dimensions.

Explores the possibility for joint positions/statements to be presented to the European Institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission) by the EU CEI countries to support the enlargement process, while accounting for the principle of own merits and respecting the decision-making autonomy of the EU.

Highlights the importance of opening participation options for potential candidates, donor/supporting countries, other international organizations.

Acknowledging the CEI as an organization with a supportive role in the enlargement process, exemplified by launching capacity building programs and limitative information campaigns about European integration in the region.

Encourages the CEI Executive Secretariat to make additional efforts and to actively disseminate information on new CEI projects in order to attract the interest of potential external donors.