



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

Tirana, 30 September -1 October 2024

FINAL DECLARATION

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative convened in Tirana, on 1 October 2024, under the Presidency of the Republic of Albania.

Delegations from the parliaments and participants of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine participated in the Assembly.

Following an exchange of views on the topic “Strengthening regional cooperation as a fundamental factor for European integration”, the participants adopted the following final declaration:

Taking into consideration the Joint Declaration of the Parliamentary Committee meeting held in Tirana, on 1 July 2024;

Having regard to the *Recommendations for the Strengthening of the Central European Initiative* adopted by the Convention for the Strengthening of the Central European Initiative gathered in Rome, on 5 July 2024;

The Central European Initiative, as a structure dedicated to promoting stability and development in this part of Europe, considers the strengthening of regional cooperation as an important factor for European integration.

Considering global changes and challenges, it is essential for the Central European region to strengthen cooperation in order to ensure a sustainable future, integrated in the European Union.

In this context, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative:

Welcomes the harmonization of policies in the fields of security, justice, and foreign policy to help establish a common stability in the region;

Encourages the strengthening of dialogue and coordination among Central European states, as a key factor in facing shared challenges to promote stability and peace;

Highlights the encouragement of collective action and cooperation among parliamentarians in addressing shared challenges and interests;

Commends the support and investment of the EU in the regional economic and social development, as a key factor for European Union integration;

Promotes increasing joint investments and advancing infrastructure projects for regional economic development and ensuring deeper integration into the economic structures of the European Union;

Appreciates CEI's support for the continuation of the European integration process of candidate countries and the commitment of the EU member countries in furthering the enlargement process.

Recalls that enlargement policy is one of the EU's most successful policy and calls for a balanced, credible and merit-based accession process.

Reaffirms that sharing of common experiences in the framework of CEI is a major contribution to a prosperous integration, and consequently it is proposed to intensify the involvement of CEI parliaments in various capacity-building activities in order to ensure successful integration;

Encourages the creation of opportunities for organizing joint youth social events, which will help strengthen ties among the peoples of the region and promote social harmony;

Urges the drafting of joint projects for the promotion of culture, education and tourism, which will contribute to strengthening a common identity and enhancing social ties among the peoples of the region;

Aims to increase investments in scientific research and the development of new and innovative technologies to enhance competitiveness and economic development in the region;

Supports the 2024-2026 CEI Action Plan to meet the needs of Member States and its mission to achieve two strategic objectives for the region, European integration and sustainable development;

Welcomes the willingness of the Parliament of Serbia to take over the next Presidency of the Central European Initiative for 2025, with the final decision to be approved at the Foreign Ministers' meeting, which will be hosted in Tirana, in November 2024.