

**Forum of the Central European Initiative (CEI)  
Local Dimension of CEI: Platform for Cooperation  
of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe**

Belgrade, 23 October 2025.  
Hotel Metropol Palace

**09:00 - 09:30**

**Participant Registration**

**09:30 - 10:00**

**Official Opening of the Forum**

- **Ambassador Miloš Todorović, Assistant Minister for the EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia (tbc)**
- **Dr. Goran Cvetanović, President of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM)**

**10:00 - 10:30**

**Central European Initiative: The Importance of Strengthening the Local Dimension of Cooperation**

- **Franco Dal Mas, Secretary General of the Central European Initiative (tbc)**

The presentation will cover CEI's work, financial support instruments (CEI Fund within the EBRD) available to members; the importance of the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP); cooperation in the context of European integration; and the potential cooperation between CEI and national associations of CEI members that are EU candidate countries for the development of CEI's local dimension.

**10:30 - 10:45**

**From local voices to European impact: The role of associations in strengthening multilevel governance and decentralisation**

- **Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions – CEMR (tbc)**

The presentation will highlight the activities of CEMR and PLATFORMA, showcasing their role in advancing cooperation and dialogue between member countries and EU candidate countries. It will explore how associations contribute to strengthening multilevel governance and driving decentralisation, with a particular focus on the added value of fostering partnerships across territories

**10:45 - 11:30**

**Coffee Break & Networking**

### **Panel Discussion: Strategic Priorities of CEI from the Perspective of Associations of Local Authorities**

- **Representatives of national associations of CEI member countries (tbc)**

**11:30 - 12:50**

National associations of local authorities share a significant number of values with the Central European Initiative, notably strengthening democratic processes, fostering a culture of dialogue, establishing regional cooperation, public administration reform, environmental protection, and social inclusion. These values represent shared strategic priorities, opening opportunities for joint initiatives and strengthening regional cohesion in Europe. This panel will serve as a platform for national associations to exchange good practices and promote results in achieving strategic priorities

**12:50 - 13: 00**

**Closing Remarks & End of the Forum**

**13:00 - 14: 00**

**Lunch**

**14:00**

### **CEMR Meeting of Secretaries General and Directors**

Please be informed that this meeting will be held as a separate event, reserved exclusively for member associations and accessible by CEMR invitation only.