



PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMME OF THE ROMANIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2026

“Closer in the region, stronger in Europe”

Romania’s CEI Presidency takes place in a complex and rapidly evolving geopolitical context, marked by heightened global and regional tensions, persistent hybrid and asymmetric threats, as well as increasing economic and security uncertainties, alongside the need to advance European integration processes and sustainable development across the region.

Against this background, Romania has reaffirmed its strong commitment to regional cooperation, considering it an essential instrument for addressing shared challenges and fostering stability, resilience, and prosperity. In the CEI region, these challenges include, in particular, the war in Ukraine and its repercussions across the region, disinformation, and broader development priorities.

Along these lines, and with a view to contributing to joint responses, Romania has undertaken the CEI Presidency with the intention of carrying out this important role with dedication and enthusiasm. The Presidency is guided by the motto “Closer in the region, stronger in Europe”, reflecting the understanding that enhanced regional cooperation is instrumental to strengthening Europe’s resilience in a period of profound global transformation.

In this context, Romania has identified five key priorities of its Presidency:

- Supporting EU integration: ensuring that the CEI continues to serve as a bridge between EU members and candidate countries, promoting reforms and offering tangible political support through real solidarity.
- Strengthening connectivity and business networks: fostering trade, investment, and cross-border partnerships while promoting sustainable economic growth and entrepreneurship.
- Enhancing societal resilience and protecting democratic processes: addressing hybrid threats and disinformation, leveraging EU tools such as the European Democracy Shield, and organizing expert exchanges to reinforce institutional capacity.
- Empowering local communities and youth: recognizing that the strength of our cooperation lies in citizens, in young people, municipalities, and local actors who can implement initiatives that benefit society at large.

In the implementation of these priorities, Romania also counts on the strong support and expertise of the CEI Executive Secretariat. The Romanian Presidency will build on the work of previous Presidencies, ensuring continuity and further advancing the CEI's mission, in line with the CEI Plan of Action 2024–2026 and its future successor, while capitalising on established partnerships.

Activities developed under these priorities are outlined in the Calendar of Events.

DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE ROMANIAN CEI PRESIDENCY 2026*

February

- 26 February, Bucharest: First meeting of the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC)

March

- 17 March, Trieste: 30th Anniversary of the CEI-Executive Secretariat - Thirty years of cooperation and commitment: Turning Policy into Action

April

- 22 April, Romania and Republic of Moldova: Event on connectivity (transport facilitation) with TCT and CEFTA (proposed by TCT through the CEI Secretariat with support by RO Presidency) – TBC
- 23 April, Bucharest: High Level “Cyber Resilience Regional Forum” – event organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania, under the auspices of the Digital for Development Hub and RO CEI Presidency

May

- 7-8 May, Constanța: Event organized by Euro-Atlantic Resilience Center (E-ARC) on the topic of hybrid threats
- 26-27 May, Bucharest: Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee
- 28 or 29 May: Trieste: 2nd CNC Meeting (focus on 30th anniversary Conference outcomes and CEI projects and activities)

June

- 19 June, Bucharest: Event organized by E-ARC on strengthening resilience through regional cooperation
- “Nicolae Titulescu” International Courses for Young Diplomats, Poiana Brașov – TBC

July

- New York: Side-event on the occasion of HLPF 2026 (proposed by the CEI Secretariat under RO Presidency) - TBC
- Thematic sector-specific event - TBD

September

- Late September, New York: Informal ministerial meeting of the CEI, held in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (AG) - TBC

October

- Brussels: 3rd CNC Meeting (focus on EU accession process also in view of Enlargement Package publication) or Joint informal meeting of CEI CNC and SEECP Political Directors (TBC)
- Event on health (proposed by WHO/Europe through the CEI Secretariat with support by RO Presidency) - TBC

November

- 3-4 November, Bucharest, CEI Parliamentary Assembly – PD

Back-to-back:

- 4th CNC meeting, Bucharest/ Timișoara
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest/ Timișoara
- Forum – combining local, economic and youth dimensions - Bucharest/ Timișoara

**additional events might be envisaged*