



**Symposium “Opera Houses and Music Festivals in Central and Eastern Europe: Looking for New Talents and New Audiences”,  
Trieste, 21 June 2014**

*Speaking points by CEI SG, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri*

- Welcome to the authorities present here today and to all the participants at this international Symposium, coming not only from CEI Member States but also from major European countries as well as from significant partners of Europe on the Mediterranean and on the Northern seas.
- You may be wondering why, why CEI, why Trieste?
- First of all the CEI Secretariat is based here in Trieste, one of the most cosmopolitan cities in this area, bridging old and new Europe. I thought it would be necessary to add to the established Dimensions of our Organisation (i.e. the Governmental, Parliamentary and Business Dimensions), one in particular devoted to culture at large and more specifically to performing arts and music, ranging from opera to ethnic-folk music.

- In fact, the CEI is already active in the fields of media, design, visual art, literature and cinema, to which we continuously reserve substantial support. We promote the organisation of various festivals and events through awards we give to international competitions.
- However, the need for more cooperation, more synergies, more interaction among the institutions involved in this fascinating endeavour is obvious: and the best testimony of the widespread attention paid to this subject is certainly the great and meaningful participation of all of you.
- Within this general subject, we are all of course interested in knowing and learning more about the orientation of the EU Commission regarding, namely, a Creative Europe, but also other ways of financially supporting these efforts.
- We do not intend to be greedy, nor do we wish to act aggressively, having in mind the sole purpose of obtaining financial support.  
On the contrary. We hope and firmly pursue to attract the attention of our international interlocutors - first but not only the European Commission - for a joint effort on a common platform. We wish to involve younger audiences more and more; train emerging professional musicians in the countries making up our constituency; develop new technologies for enlarging the audiences addressing

new and innovative trends in opera, dance and symphonic music - in an area such as that of Central Europe and the South Eastern Balkans - which share a common and well-acknowledged cultural heritage. A heritage, which for all of us is a well-founded matter of pride.

- The current crisis and the outcome of the recent Parliament elections demonstrate that there is still a call for Europe: a call, which cannot be ignored by organisations acting to make the dream of the founding fathers for a steady European integration process come true.
- The CEI is fully committed to contributing to reaching that goal. A goal, which is to be pursued and attained in full harmony and with a substantial support from the structures in Brussels, which we hope will be able to meet the aspirations arising not only from the Member countries but also from those steadily pursuing full integration and vastly voiced up by their peoples.
- The CEI uses as its motto: “regional cooperation for European integration”. This applies to our current endeavours and to today’s meeting. And certainly fits in initiatives covering our common cultural heritage.