



“Competitiveness – Innovation – Human Resources”

CEI Countries in a Global Perspective

**Presentation by Amb. Harald Kreid,
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Albania
Austria
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Hungary
Italy
Macedonia
Moldova
Poland
Romania
Serbia and Montenegro
Slovakia
Slovenia
Ukraine

CEI MEMBER STATES

ALBANIA  Albania

AUSTRIA  Austria

BELARUS  Belarus

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  Bosnia and Herzegovina

BULGARIA  Bulgaria

CROATIA  Croatia

CZECH REPUBLIC  Czech Republic

HUNGARY  Hungary

ITALY  Italy

MACEDONIA  Macedonia

MOLDOVA  Moldova

POLAND  Poland

ROMANIA  Romania

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO  Serbia and Montenegro

SLOVAKIA  Slovakia

SLOVENIA  Slovenia

UKRAINE  Ukraine

CEI REGION



Total area: 2.4 million km²

Population: 250 million

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- Albania
- Austria
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Italy
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine



Mandate:

Established in 1989 as an intergovernmental forum for political, economic and cultural co-operation among its Member States

Principal objectives:

- strengthen the process of economic transformation of the CEI countries in transition
- strengthen the participation of all Member States in the process of European integration
- strengthen co-operation between Member States

The CEI has undergone, during the last three years, a transformation from being predominantly oriented towards political dialogue to an organisation focused on:

- transfer of **know-how**
- transfer of **technology**
- **investment promotion**
- **promotion of scientific research**
- post-graduate training in the areas of **economics, informatics and public administration**
- **promotion of civil society**, especially in the field of culture, media and youth affairs

The **Plan of Action** adopted by the CEI Heads of Government for the years **2004-06** is organized in three segments, namely Economic Development, Human Development and Institutional Development. It assigns concrete tasks to the CEI working structures and identifies **one or two priority items**, so called **core issues**, to which special attention has to be paid.

CEI Trust Fund

- established at the EBRD by Italy to finance technical co-operation projects with the EBRD and other IFIs in such areas as transport, infrastructure, energy, SMEs, agriculture and institutional building
- a Revolving Fund which has, up to now, disbursed about 26 million EUR
- in recent years 4 million EUR invested in feasibility studies have generated EBRD loans of 250 million EUR

CEI Solidarity Fund

- approved in June 1998 (Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Brioni)
- based on voluntary contributions from Member States and administered by the CEI Executive Secretariat in Trieste
- facilitates participation of the representatives and experts of all CEI Member countries in CEI events.

CEI Co-operation Fund

- established in June 2001 (Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Milan)
- agreed contributions by CEI Member States
- facilitates implementation of programmes and projects called CEI Co-operation Activities organised and sponsored by the CEI
- up to now 127 Co-operation Activities which constitute a total value of 13 million EUR have been funded

CEI Science and Technology Network

- launched at the beginning of 2004
- based on the cooperation with five research centres in Trieste of world –wide repute
- makes available research grants to scientists from Central and Eastern European CEI MS or co-finances scientific meetings in the fields of theoretical and applied physics, biogenetics and biotechnology, neurosciences and applied mathematics

In 2004, the project **"From Research to Enterprise"** awarded financial support to scientists and researchers from CEI countries in order to enable them to commercialise their research results.

CEI University Network

- idea launched by Italy in 2001- became operative in 2003 with the approval of its Founding Charter at the CEI Summit in Warsaw
- operates through a network of 17 Co-ordinating Universities, one for each MS
- offers grants and scholarships for so-called Joint Programmes in the fields of economics, communication (including IT) and public administration for post-graduate study
- is based on the principle of mobility: i.e. the CEI finances the move of teaching staff and students to other universities

CEI Know-how Exchange Programme

- launched at the beginning of 2004 in view of the EU enlargement
- assists the new EU MS of the CEI to transfer their accession experience to non-EU members
- financed from a special window in the CEI Trust Fund at EBRD
- a meeting of the donor agencies of the seven EU MS of the CEI is to be held in Trieste in June

CEI Funding Unit

- created in January 2004
- attracts EU and other outside funding for CEI projects and promotes the participation of CEI countries in trans-national projects at European level
- currently, it is involved in 12 EU supported projects with a total value of 15 million EUR, out of which 4 with a value of approximately 5 million EUR have been approved

CEI Evaluation Unit

- operative within the CEI-ES since January 2005
- supervises the pre- and post-implementation phases of the Cooperation Activities co-financed by the CEI
- oversees the distribution of funds assigned to the various areas of activity
- promotes a more balanced allocation of funds among CEI Member States and the various areas of activity

CEI Summit Economic Forum (SEF)

- the **SEF** has been organised annually since 1998
- it is held in conjunction with the Meeting of Heads of Governments and features a Round Table of the CEI Ministers of the Economic Sectors
- brings together more than a thousand representatives of business, government, NGOs and the media to discuss economic issues of relevance to the CEI Region
- in addition to a feature event focuses on special segments in the fields of transport, energy, SMEs, entrepreneurship (including women's entrepreneurship) and the financial sector
- provides an Interactive Business Area with exhibition stands, a project room and match-making facilities



THE EIGHTH CEI SUMMIT ECONOMIC FORUM

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

23-25 NOVEMBER 2005

CEI Youth Forum

- the first CEI Youth Forum was organised in 2001
- organised at the time of the Summit
- it brings young people from all Member Countries (activists, entrepreneurs, young government officials etc.) for an exchange of opinions and experiences on various issues such as job opportunities, mobility, cooperation among youth across-borders etc.

CEI Youth Orchestra

- created in November 2004 by the Heads of Government
- it brings together some of the most talented young musicians from CEI countries
- it is the only one among the youth orchestras to work with youngsters from 11 to 18 years of age
- it has the headquarters for rehearsals in Brdo, Slovenia, and performs during the summer and Christmas holidays, in addition it traditionally gives a concert for the CEI Heads of Government during their November Meeting

- the **CEI Journalists' Forum**, to take place in Serbia and Montenegro this year
- the **CEI Venice Forum of Curators of Museums of Modern Art** (in conjunction with the Venice Biennale)
- the **CEI Writers' Meeting** in connection with the traditional Vilenica encounter of writers
- the **Mittelfest of Cividale** as an annual encounter of artists and performers from CEI countries

Agriculture

CEI Contribution: EUR million	
CEI support to Wholesale Markets (Croatia and Poland)	1,40
Programme for Agricultural Wholesale Markets in CEI countries (with FAO)	0,40
EastAgri CEI Network (with FAO)	0,07

SMEs

CEI Contribution: EUR million	
Albania CEI Micro-financing part I and II (with WB, UNECE)	0,60
Business Advisory Services (CEI BAS Croatia, BIH, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Macedonia)	3,50
CEI TAM Privatisation Support to SMEs (Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine)	0,60

Transport

CEI Contribution: EUR million	
Ukraine: Kiev to Western border highway study	0,80
CETIR: Central European Transport Information Reporting system	1,50
Ukraine: Air Navigation Project	0,20
Sarajevo Airport Master Plan and Training	0,20
Sarajevo Airport lighting and equipment	0,40
Procurement assistance to EBRD Transport Team	0,10
CEI Road Rehabilitation - Corridor VIII Albania	1,70
CEI Romanian Railways Co-operation Project	0,40
CEI assistance to Macedonian Air Navigation	0,70
CEI assistance to Sofia Parking System	0,20

Institution Building and Other Programmes with IFI's

	CEI Contribution: EUR million
CEI Joint international events	1,10
Commercial Law training I and II	3,30
BOLD and CEInet	0,40
Serbia Investment Climate Study	0,10
Sarajevo Airport lighting and equipment	0,40
Bosnia: Electric Power System Reconstruction	0,50
CEI Contribution to the Danube cleaning	0,10

CEI Presidency

- rotating **annually** at the beginning of the calendar year based on the alphabetical order of the English names of CEI Member States
- the Presidency is in charge of the meetings at **ministerial level**
- in 2005 the CEI Presidency is held by **Slovakia**, which – in addition to the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Heads of Government and Ministers of the Economic Sectors – will organize an International Conference on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, a Conference on Combating Organized Crime, a Conference for the Safe Development of Life Line Systems and a Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Agriculture

Committee of National Co-ordinators

- it represents what we call the **Governmental Dimension**
- “transmission belt” which **handles all the aspects** of the Organisation
- meets almost on a **monthly basis** and decides on all questions of financing (especially the use of the CEI Funds), on the appointment of the Chairs of Working Groups, prepares the Ministerial Meetings and informs the national governments on all the activities of the CEI

CEI Dimensions

Parliamentary Dimension

- operates through a Parliamentary Committee, which meets in spring, and the Parliamentary Assembly which meets in autumn prior to the Meeting of the CEI Heads of Government
- participates in all high-level CEI meetings
- involved in working group activities and
- develops its own activities within (currently seven) ad hoc committees

CEI Dimensions

Business Dimension

- consists of the Network of Chambers of Commerce of our Member States
- operates through its annual President's Conference
- supports by means of funding made available by Italy's Unioncamere the organization of business meetings

CEI Executive Secretariat

- created in 1996
- based on a Headquarters Agreement with Italy which gives it the status of an international organization
- located in Trieste, Italy's easternmost city and thus ideally situated for work towards Central and Eastern Europe
- headed by a Director General (from Austria) assisted by two deputies (one from Italy and one from Slovenia) and a staff of 12 coming from Italy, Croatia, Macedonia and Poland
- prepares all the CEI meetings in cooperation with the Presidency, administers the Co-operation Activities, the various Networks and Flagship Events

Secretariat for CEI Projects

- created in 1993 in London on the basis of an agreement with EBRD
- manages the CEI Trust Fund at EBRD established by Italy
- has offices in London and Trieste
- administers the Technical Co-operation Activities and the KEP
- organizes the Summit Economic Forum
- headed by a Programme Manager supported by a staff of seven, four of which are in Trieste

The 17 CEI Working Groups:



Agriculture	Co-chaired by Albania and Poland
Civil Protection	Chaired by Italy
Combating Organised Crime	Co-chaired by Italy and Slovakia
Culture	Co-chaired by Hungary and Slovakia
Education	Chaired by Serbia and Montenegro
Energy	Co-chaired by Austria and Ukraine
Environment	Co-chaired by Austria and Hungary
Human Resource Dev. & Training	Co-chaired by Belarus and Czech Republic
Information & Media	Co-chaired by Romania and Serbia and Montenegro
Interreg. and Cross-border Coop.	Co-chaired by Hungary and Poland
Migration	Co-chaired by Hungary and Belarus
Minorities	Chaired by Romania
Science & Technology	Chaired by Italy
SMEs	Co-chaired by Croatia and Slovenia
Tourism	Chaired by Croatia
Transport	Chaired by Italy
Youth Affairs	Co-chaired by Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro



The CEI has a special relationship with the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** where it maintains an office in charge of economic projects and investment promotion.

The CEI has well-established working relationships with a number of other IOs, especially with:

- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
- **Council of Europe**
- **UNECE** and
- **UNESCO**

The CEI has regular contacts with an exchange of information and occasional common projects with the main regional actors such as:

- **Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII)**
- **Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**
- **South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)**
- **Danube Cooperation Process (DCP)** and
- the **Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe**

published monthly since 2002

contains the most important developments within the CEI

available upon request: contact us to be put on the mailing list



The following CEI publications are available:

- General Information Brochure
- Leaflets on:
 - *the SEF*
 - *the KEP*
 - *the Funding Unit*
 - *the CEI University Network*
 - *the CEI Science and Technology Network and*
 - *the CEI Youth Orchestra*
- CEI Project Booklet



CEI - Central European Initiative - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

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