



Parlamentul Republicii Moldova



## **MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE CEI PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION**

*Chişinău, 22-23 May 2023*

### **JOINT STATEMENT**

*The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension, held in Chişinău on 23 May 2023, under the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova, attended by the parliamentary delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine,*

*Reaffirming* the role of the CEI as a privileged and important forum of regional cooperation and an essential element in achieving integrated connectivity between the European Union and its partners from the Eastern Neighborhood;

*Underlining* that the regional situation has changed the international context with far-reaching geopolitical consequences and serious repercussions on the CEI region, starting from the pandemic and the consequences of the ongoing unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which undermines the process of European integration;

*Recognizing* that the instruments of regional cooperation such as CEI are helpful in mitigating the impact of the war across the region while, at the same time, promoting the European integration process as the only quest for the stability and security of the continent and developing new forms of accelerated integration;

*Recalling* the recent discussions of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs (New York, September 2022 and Sofia, November 2022) that paved the way to new initiatives for providing further support to Ukraine and continuing to vigorously pursue the European integration project as a key priority of the Organisation;

*Stressing* its strong commitment to support candidate countries to move forward on their respective EU path, the Republic of Moldova stressed the fact that today all non-EU members of the CEI enjoy the status of “EU Candidate Country” and recalled the importance to build up on the role of CEI as a catalyser of the European integration process through effective tools;

*Emphasizing* that our region is facing critical challenges in the energy sector; the prolongation of the war in Ukraine and the uncertainty regarding the events that will follow threaten to perpetuate energy insecurity in the region;

*Underlining* the importance of collaboration in promoting energy market reforms according to European rules and international commitments to diversify energy sources, promote energy efficiency and renewable sources, protecting consumers and fighting against energy poverty and climate change for future generations;

*We, the participants of the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension held in Chişinău on 23 May 2023,*



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*Reconfirm* the fundamental importance of regional cooperation within CEI based on an all-inclusive approach and equal footing in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, as tools for solving wide or urgent problems, including energy security in the region and promoting acceleration of the European path of the candidate states;

*Underline* that geo-political developments in 2022 confirmed the European Union as the most attractive project and the only guarantee for peace and prosperity and in line with the positive developments registered last year in the EU enlargement process - opening of the accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia and granting of candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina and preferably for Georgia as well in the near future – maintains a strong need to keep the momentum by making concrete steps forward;

*Stress* that, born as a platform for multilateral dialogue among and between its countries, the CEI PD has developed a complementary operational approach able to translate its institutional mission in concrete actions through a combination of multilateral diplomacy, programme funding and project management, representing a unique feature of the CEI and a valuable tool for the attainment of its political goal, which is promotion of regional cooperation for European integration;

*Hope* that the CEI, being made up of EU Member States or candidate countries, will take the lead in a renewed multilateral approach in Central and Eastern Europe that will strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion of this region;

*Promote* the exchange of expertise with parliaments of the countries wishing to join the EU, in order to support them in adapting national legislation to the EU acquis and accelerate their integration process, designing new forms of cooperation and promoting citizens' sense of belonging to Europe;

*Recommend* to intensify our strategic joint cooperation in the field of energy, through joint actions and mechanisms, aimed at advancing energy infrastructure projects, increasing energy resilience, security of supply and accelerate the transition to clean energy, with regard to reduce the consumption of energy resources, the use of fossil fuels and and the dependence from Russian Federation;

*Condemn* the ongoing, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the use of energy resources for the purpose of blackmail and geopolitical influence on the states of the European continent, as well as support the implementation of the adopted restrictive measures while accelerating the recovery of national economies with an impact on several crises and increasing the Security of supply;

The Central European Initiative can provide a platform to contribute to developing projects for the reconstruction of Ukraine, which cannot wait for the end of hostilities;

*Firmly declare* the willingness to make common efforts in order to intensify cooperation relations within the CEI PD Platform but also outside it, including the consolidation of regional and European energy security and the continuation of the European integration project of the candidate states.