



ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE CEI-PD

STANDING COMMITTEE
Bucharest, 27 October 2009
(Constantin Stere Hall)

Draft agenda

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Election of the members of the Sub-committee on relations with international and regional parliamentary organisations**
- 3. Debate on the need and modalities of making cooperation within CEI Parliamentary Dimension more effective – exchange of views on setting up a Permanent Secretariat**
- 4. Miscellaneous**

DRAFT MINUTES

The sitting was opened at 9.15 with Mr. Borbély László, Chairman-in-Office of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension and Head of the CEI Romanian Delegation, in the chair.

The **Chairman** thanked those CEI-PD Members who were able to come to Bucharest, this year when the Central European Initiative is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. He pointed out that these two decades meant many worth mentioning achievements, the most relevant being the EU accession of 8 CEI countries. There is a need for more effective, more flexible, and more cooperative approach among CEI Member States, added Mr. Borbély.

Underlining the relevance of topics to be debated during the CEI Parliamentary Assembly, and noting that, in accordance with the provisions of the paragraph 5 of the Rule 9 and of the paragraph 2 of the Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman acknowledged that the quorum required for holding the sitting was met – in the presence of more than a half of national delegations, and declared open the meeting of the Standing Committee.

The **Chairman** has reminded to the Standing Committee members, that in line with the CEI-PD Rules of Procedure, the Head of the national delegation taking over the CEI Presidency of the Parliamentary Dimension is holding the office of Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Dimension, position held by Mr. Miodrag Vuković, representing the forthcoming Montenegrin CEI-PD Presidency. It was also mentioned, that according to the paragraph 3 of Rule 9, some members of the Standing Committee were not able to join the meeting, and, as a result, they have decided to be replaced by a member of their respective national delegation.

Noting the recent parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Albania, the **Chairman** welcomed Mr. Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Head of the Bulgarian Delegation and Mr. Ardian Turku, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, and was sorry for being impossible for the representatives of the Republic of Moldova to attend the CEI Parliamentary Assembly.

The **Chairman** underlined that the Montenegro is represented by an Ad-hoc delegation, led by Mr. Miodrag Vuković, Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs and European Integration of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, since the Parliament from Podgorica did not establish a permanent delegation to the CEI-PD. The members of the Standing Committee were also informed about the changes made to the Hungarian Delegation. Therefore, Mr. Szabó Vilmos have been replaced by Mr. Kozma József, as the new Head of Delegation.

The Chairman briefly ran through the items of the draft agenda and asked if there are proposals for amending it.

The draft agenda was **adopted**.

The next item was the election of the members of the Sub-committee on relations with international and regional parliamentary organizations, the initiative to set up this Sub-committee being taken during the previous meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 8th of May.

The **Chairman** read the names of the five candidates that have applied, on behalf of their national delegations, to become members of this Sub-committee: Mrs. Mirela Holy, member of the Croatian Delegation, Mr. Valeryi Kamchatnyi, Head of the Ukrainian Delegation, Mr. Aldo di Biagio, member of the Italian Delegation, Mr. Paja Momčilov, member of the Serbian Delegation, and Mr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Romanian Delegation.

Noting that the Sub-committee is made up of four seats, the **Chairman** proposed to amend the Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, thus extending to five members the composition of this sub-committee.

The amendment was *unanimously adopted*.

The **Chairman** said that the new elected members will probably hold their first meeting during the forthcoming CEI-PD Presidency.

The third item on the agenda was dedicated to the modalities of making the cooperation within CEI-PD more effective. The members of the Standing Committee were invited to an exchange of views on concrete measures meant to increase the effectiveness of the CEI activity.

Mr. **Borbely** emphasized the need to develop cooperation among CEI parliaments in a more structured and meaningful way and, at the same time, to be better connected to the CEI Governmental Dimension. It was also underscored that the idea of setting up a Permanent Secretariat of the CEI-PD has been put forward several years ago and reiterated last year by the Italian delegation. In his view, the Secretariat should be made as simple as possible, consisting of one or two civil servants, whose tasks should aim at strengthening the ties among CEI national delegations and at

improving the relations between the CEI Governmental and Parliamentary Dimensions.

Mrs. **Laura Ravetto**, *Chairperson of the General Committee on Political and Home Affairs, Head of the Italian Delegation*, said that the last meetings held within the framework of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension have taken into consideration the possibility of setting up a Secretariat.

Mrs. **Ravetto** thanked for the support given by Mr. Gianfranco Fini, the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, by authorizing the establishment of a Technical Secretariat. The Head of the Italian Delegation underlined the national dimension of this Secretariat that will be organized and financed by Italy. It was pointed out that in the absence of a formal Secretariat, there is a need for a Focal Point, designed to provide other members with information.

Mrs. **Ravetto** said that the Technical Secretariat will operate within the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and it will be a Focal Point of the CEI parliamentary activity. The main tasks are related to ensuring the updating of the CEI parliamentary meetings schedule, to guaranteeing coordination with other regional cooperation initiatives, including the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and to keep informed the members of the national delegations about the outcomes of the contacts with regional cooperation initiatives. The Secretariat will guarantee the ongoing contact with the Trieste based CEI Secretariat and, therefore it will act as a linkage with CEI Governmental and Economic Dimensions and will be an operational contact point among parliaments and it should report on all relevant documents, as well as relevant rules in the CEI Parliamentary Dimension.

Other important tasks of this Secretariat are related to: keeping the archive of email addresses of CEI parliamentarians, and of the national delegations secretaries, as well as the archive related to the General Committees and sub-committees' activity, monitoring progress with the implementation of CEI projects and the spread of information on the ongoing projects, creating a dedicated website in English.

The **Chairman** said that it is a very good proposal and the Romanian delegation fully agrees with this initiative, because there is a need to be more informed, to be better connected with the regional stakeholders, in order to avoid unpleasant overlapping.

The **Chairman** said that the Italian proposal cannot be voted upon within the Standing Committee, being a national initiative. Nevertheless, Mr. Borbely recommended that a paragraph of the Final Declaration could mention that the members of the national delegations are in favour of the establishment of this Secretariat.

Mrs. **Susanne Neuwirth**, *Chairperson of the General Committee on Cultural Affairs, Head of the Austrian Delegation*, said that the last five years a lot of discussions were held about a Permanent Secretariat and the Austrian point of view was against setting up such a Secretariat. Mrs. Neuwirth said that the organization is going quite well, and believes that another CEI structure is not necessary. The Italian proposal is seen as a mixture, because it is on a national basis of one of the member countries. The Head of the Austrian Delegation said that this proposal should be discussed and not yet decided, adding that, in her opinion, it is a new structure of the CEI, and not only an Italian work.

Reiterating the Chairman's conclusion, Mrs. **Laura Ravetto** replied to Mrs. Neuwirth, saying that a national initiative does not require an international approval. It was argued that the setting up of this structure is meant to strengthen this initiative, by putting it at the disposal of other members, and could be a valuable interlocutor for the Trieste based CEI Executive Secretariat.

The **Chairman** thanked to the Italian Delegation for this proposal and asked if there are comments or questions to be raised concerning the issues debated. Mr. Miodrag Vuković asked to take the floor.

Mr. **Miodrag Vuković**, *representative of the Montenegrin delegation*, said that his country is preparing to overtake the CEI Presidency and the presidency of other regional organizations. According to Mr. Vukovic, Montenegro, as the youngest member, has become member of the United Nations in 2007, and stressed the intensive dialogue with the European Commission, with a view to enhancing the European perspective of Montenegro. The organization of the Cetinje Forum and COSAP (Conference on parliamentary committees on European Integration from the Association and Stabilization Process countries) – is witnessing a reliable experience, designed to prove the readiness of Montenegro to hold next year, besides the CEI Presidency, the chairmanships of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and of the

Parliamentary Dimension of the South East European Cooperation Process.

The **Chairman** explained that some amendments were made to the version of the Final Declaration, previously sent to the national delegations, and invited them to examine the new draft and to propose amendments, if they deem necessary.

The meeting rose at 10.15 p.m.