



Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Central European Initiative of the Parliamentary
Dimension

28 November 2017, Minsk

Parliamentary Dimension of the CEI

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Digital technologies in terms of ensuring geopolitical security

FINAL DECLARATION

Within the framework of the Presidency of the Republic of Belarus in the CEI in 2017 a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI PD was held on 28th of November in Minsk. The focus was on the following topic: "Digital technologies in terms of ensuring geopolitical security".

The meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI PD was held under the chairmanship of Ms. Irina Starovoitova, Chairperson of the CEI PD and head of the parliamentary delegation of Belarus in the CEI PD.

The meeting was attended by national parliament delegations of

Noting the achievements of the Central European Initiative in the process of promoting interconnectedness and increasing transparency in the region;

Recognizing the significant contribution of the countries of North-Eastern Europe and the Balkans in creating a unique space for international cooperation;

Considering that the Central European Initiative provides a platform for a dialogue and synchronization of plans to expand interaction in the economic and transport infrastructure, to develop logistics services and to bring standards and procedures closer in order to accelerate trade flows;

Attaching great significance to the cooperation of CEI with the United Nations on such essential issues as the goals of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, migration, counteraction to terrorism and radicalization with the preservation of the practice of regular interaction within the framework of the UN General Assembly;

Emphasizing the important role of CEI participation in various integration formats and organizations, including the European Union, the Visegrad Group, the Regional Cooperation Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as in diplomatic initiatives such as the Berlin Process, the Eastern Partnership, the One Belt One Road;

Having regard to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU;

Recalling the need to ensure geopolitical security, the purpose of which is to guarantee the security of the territory of the CEI region, its political, economic and information space in the system of global international relations;

Aware that the introduction of successful digital systems plays a key role in ensuring the barrier-free implementation of cross-border trade, the development of transport infrastructure and contributes to a more sustainable economic growth;

Stressing the need to continue research and improve the system of information exchange, accounting and document circulation applying international standards and norms in order to form the basis for a truly pan-European digital market;

Taking into account the phenomenon of the development of the information space and the information society as factors that simultaneously influence the national security of the CEI member countries and the geopolitical situation in the CEI region as a whole;

Referring to the final document adopted by the Parliamentary Committee of the CEI PD on 30 May 2017 in Minsk;

Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI PD

Notes the significant progress achieved by the CEI over the past 28 years in strengthening the cohesion of its member states and their integration as well as in the development of cooperation between the Eastern Partnership and the member countries of the European Union;

Welcomes and encourages specific decisions to be taken to continue the process of reforming the CEI in order to best adapt the organization to changes in the region;

Calls for objective information to the CEI member states on the current situation for the adoption of relevant and coordinated decisions, including cooperation in the areas of economic and technological security;

Supports all measures aimed at taking into account the interests of CEI member states when developing and implementing approaches to ensure geopolitical security;

Recognizes the need to expand the interaction of the CEI with international financial institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank;

Calls upon all CEI member states and their national parliaments to contribute to the creation of the necessary legal framework for the mutual recognition of data processing standards and the interaction of national digital regulators;

Particularly emphasizes the need for assistance of CEI member countries development of cross-border electronic services, compatible paperless trading systems, electronic trading platforms and, for this purpose, closer links with international financial organizations;

Calls for harmonization of trade-related standards, translation of procedures and services into digital format, support for entrepreneurship and innovation along the route of major transport corridors;

Welcomes efforts to coordinate policy and the actions of the CEI, EU institutions, the Eastern Partnership and other international organizations to maintain economic and political stability, the development of innovation and digital technologies and ensure geopolitical security;

Points out the importance of intensifying the establishment of closer cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States in line with general economic interests;

Believes that the promoting compatibility and complementarity between the various integration processes in Europe seems appropriate in the context of expanding trade, innovation and economic development;

Encourages the active use of the latest communication tools for the development of electronic international trade to create a digital economy;

Expresses appreciation and gratitude to Belarus for presidency on its leadership during its term in office in 2017;

Strongly supports the forthcoming chairmanship of Croatia in the implementation of the planned CEI priorities in the Action Plan 2018-2020, which should contribute to strengthening the role of the CEI in the region and its European integration.