



CEI PD Parliamentary Committee Meeting

Sofia, 16-17 May 2022

JOINT STATEMENT

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative was held in Sofia on 17th May 2022 under the chairmanship of the President of the PD CEI Mrs Denitsa Simeonova.

The meeting was attended by the parliamentary delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Ukraine.

After exchanging views on fostering cross-border research and innovation in the CEI region, the participants issued the following Joint Statement:

Emphasising the topical relevance of the mission of the CEI and of its objectives outlined in the CEI Plan of Action 2021-2023 such as “Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship” and “Furthering Science Diplomacy”,

Wishing to build upon the shared vision of the CEI Member States on the importance of research, the valorisation of its results and their transfer into innovative products, a vision clearly stated in the “Trieste Declaration on Science”, unanimously adopted by CEI Ministers in charge of science and research on 13 December 2019,

Guided by the new vision for the European Research Area (ERA) outlined in the updated ERA Policy Agenda,

Having in mind that cross-border cooperation is necessary to utilise the full potential of scientific resources in the region,



Recognizing that international cooperation is also at the heart of building research ecosystems which encourage the mobility of scientists, fostering excellence and innovative solutions,

Mindful that nurturing connections between scientific advancements and industry is a key part of our transition to a green and more sustainable economy,

Convinced that the region should welcome the high-risk/high gain and interdisciplinary cutting-edge science collaborations that underpin technological breakthroughs,

We, the participants of the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative held in Sofia on 17th May 2022,

Invite national parliaments and governments to create and implement policies aiming at developing talent and accelerating the countries' technological advancement and sustainability,

Recommend all member states to make efforts to prioritise investments in research and innovation,

Encourage the CEI member community to enhance the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology within its borders and with other EU countries,

Invite the member states of the CEI to create new legislation which stimulates the development of innovative startups to grow into innovative SMEs and then scale up to large successful corporations that contribute to the region's technological sovereignty and prosperity,

Propose the CEI members to consider the establishment of a new event format 'CEI Innovates summit' which will bring together leaders in the CEI innovation ecosystem of all CEI Members with notable EU technocrats, researchers and investors.