



Parlamentul Republicii Moldova



MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE CEI PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION

Chişinău, 27 November 2023

FINAL STATEMENT ON EU ENLARGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE CEI

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension, convened in Chişinău on 27 November 2023, under the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova,

Affirming the role of the CEI as an effective and important forum of regional cooperation that combines multilateral diplomacy with regional projects and promotes fundamental values, that the CEI and the EU share;

Recognizing that regional cooperation within CEI is essential in achieving integrated connectivity between the European Union and its partners from the Eastern Neighborhood, promoting the European integration process as the only path towards the stability and security of the continent and encouraging the development of new forms of accelerated integration;

Stressing the relevance of a more defined framework of interests on the part of the CEI Member States, and the importance of bringing together EU member countries and those aspiring to EU membership, with a strong support for the EU enlargement process as a shared commitment to addressing challenges linked to the consolidation of the European project;

and *Underlining* that the aggression of Russia against Ukraine is directly threatening the peace and security in the Western Balkans, thus leading to geopolitical consequences and serious repercussions in the CEI region and undermining the process of European integration; as well as the fact that the effort and sacrifice of Ukraine created an opportunity for speeding up the European integration process in the Western Balkans, as well as opening a new path to Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and to Georgia, for reviving the discussions on EU reform and enlargement,

Reconfirms that geo-political developments in 2022 and 2023 proved that the European Union is an essential project and the only guarantee for peace and prosperity, and welcomes the positive developments registered in the EU enlargement process – holding the first intergovernmental conferences with Albania and North Macedonia and the granting of candidate status to Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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Notes that on 8 November 2023, the European Commission recommended, conditionally, the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the European Council on 14-15 December 2023 will take its decision on the matter;

Stresses that, born as a platform for multilateral dialogue among 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, including parliamentary diplomacy as an added value for cooperation;

Takes into consideration that, in order to express a common vision regarding the need to give new political impetus to the action of the CEI, a *Convention for the strengthening of the Central European Initiative* should be established, as an ad hoc working group, at the proposal of the Chairpersons of the CEI PD National Delegations and Committees on Foreign Affairs of CEI Member States, which convened in Trieste, on 13 October 2023;

Firmly declares the willingness to make common efforts to reinforce the CEI in order to encourage regional cooperation and a renewed multilateral approach throughout the CEI region.

Extends its best wishes to the upcoming presidency of the Central European Initiative, which will be held by Albania in 2024.