

MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Trieste, 27-28 May 2019

“STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL DIMENSION OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE”

DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT

Within the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and on the 30th anniversary of its establishment,

***Emphasising* the topical relevance of the mission of the CEI and of its role in supporting the process of European integration of its member countries which are still outside the European Union, also by strengthening relations between EU countries, the countries of Southeast Europe and the Eastern Partnership countries, with the CEI acting as an effective bridge linking these European regions,**

***Convinced* of the importance of the Central European Initiative as a meaningful instrument for relaunching the objectives, ideals and values of the European Union in the current context,**

***Mindful* that the CEI can secure greater support from citizens if it succeeds in developing **an increasingly closer and workable linkage with the local and regional authorities**, basing its actions on the principle of subsidiarity, whereby all decisions must be taken as closely as possible to the citizens,**

***Convinced* of the contribution that **local and regional authorities** can make to a “multi-tier” democracy, as the European democratic system is, based on their capacity to identify and meet the needs of citizens with concrete actions, ensuring that the decisions taken are “within the grasp” of all, accompanied by clear and adequate information for citizens,**

Guided by the Treaty on European Union (TEU) which provides, among other things, that the system of local and regional authorities be enhanced and protected by involving them more broadly in laying down and implementing the strategies of the EU,

Considering moreover, that the local and regional authorities guarantee the integrated management of sectoral policies which have a major local and regional impact, such as transport, economic development, healthcare, environment, cultural, and agricultural and rural policies

The Parliamentary Committee of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly

Invites the member states of the CEI to consider **the establishment of a local dimension** of the Initiative by involving the regional and local authorities - in whatever manner and form they deem most appropriate - in decision-making processes and in shaping future political strategies, looking ahead to introducing **new solutions for establishing cooperation between the different dimensions of the CEI and the system of local and regional government,**

Emphasising that **the flexibility of the CEI** give special added-value to our Initiative and that its potential must be exploited to the full,

Urges the CEI member states to **develop forms of “horizontal” cooperation between their respective systems of local and regional government,** convinced that this may represent a particular strength of the CEI and contribute positively to the pursuit of its objectives,

Tasks its President with **submitting this final document** to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting on 11 and 12 June 2019 in Trieste.