



Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Central European Initiative

Milan, 22 June 2001

Decision

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Central European Initiative,

Referring to the provisions of Article 23 (para 3) of the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure stipulating that Member States shall facilitate the implementation of CEI programmes and projects through annual financial contributions,

Recalling that under Article 18 (para 7) of the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure the authorities of the receiving State shall finance the activities of the CEI-ES as well as the staff's salaries,

Recalling also that a CEI Fund (Trust Fund) had been established at the EBRD by Italy as sponsor and managed by the Secretariat for CEI Projects in accordance with the Secretariat Agreement, concluded between the CEI and the EBRD on 21 July 1998, and the Fund Agreement, concluded between the Government of Italy and the EBRD on 14 April 1992 and amended on 23 July 1997,

Having considered the recommendation prepared by the CNC regarding the modalities for the application of the provision establishing annual financial contributions,

- I. Decide the establishment of a CEI Co-operation Fund to facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects organised or sponsored by the CEI,*
- II. Approve for the year 2002 an annual budget of Euro 300,000 to be covered by the annual contributions of Member States.*
- III. Adopt, in accordance with the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure, the following*

CEI Co-operation Fund Regulations

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of their annual spring meeting, shall approve, upon recommendation of the Committee of National Co-ordinators, a budget for the following calendar year, or annual budgets for two consecutive years coinciding with the biannual Plan of Action, to be financed by the annual contributions of the Member States.

2. The CNC, in recommending the budget to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall give a preliminary indication of the expected needs for financial support for facilitating the implementation of programmes and projects proposed by Member States and/or CEI working bodies.

3. The annual contributions of Member States shall cover the approved budget. The maximum contribution shall represent 27% of the annual budget, the minimum contribution 1%.

Apart from those limits, a combination of economic and political considerations is applied for calculating the scale of contributions. Among those considerations are internationally recognised criteria (GDP, GDP p.c., population), taking into account also total (including voluntary) contributions of individual Member States, the relatively small absolute size of annual contributions and the need for simplified administrative procedures.

4. Scale of annual contributions:	in %	in Euro
Italy	27 %	81,000
Austria	20 %	60,000
Poland	8 %	24,000
Czech Republic	6 %	18,000
Hungary	6 %	18,000
Croatia	5 %	15,000
Slovak Republic	5 %	15,000
Slovenia	5 %	15,000
Ukraine	5 %	15,000
Romania	3 %	9,000
Belarus	2 %	6,000
Bulgaria	2 %	6,000
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	2 %	6,000
Albania	1 %	3,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 %	3,000
Macedonia	1 %	3,000
Moldova	1 %	3,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>300,000</i>

5. Member States shall transfer their annual contributions not later than by the end of April of each year to a bank account established and administered by the CEI-ES in Trieste (Italy).

The Audit of the Fund shall be provided in accordance with the Italian Law.

6. Allocations from the CEI Co-operation Fund to facilitate implementation of programmes and projects shall be decided by the CNC on the basis of a full documentation provided by the proposing Member State or working body.

7. The criteria for resource allocation shall be established by the CNC taking into account the CEI priorities, its long term strategy and Plan of Action.

8. As a general rule the financial resources allocated for a single programme or project from the CEI Co-operation Fund shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the proposed programme or

project, or 10% of the total Fund. CEI Co-operation Fund resources not allocated until the end of the fiscal year shall be added to the following year's annual budget.

9. The CEI-ES shall regularly report on the activities of the CEI Co-operation Fund to the CNC. The CEI-ES Director General shall include in his Annual Report, submitted in accordance with Article 19 (para 4) of the Guidelines and Rules of Procedure to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a statement on the CEI Co-operation Fund performance.

10. The formula of the annual contributions, annual budget and scale of contributions are to be decided annually by the spring meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and shall not be conceived as a precedent or prejudice for similar regulations.

Any amendment of the CEI Co-operation Fund Regulations proposed by a Member State shall be examined by the CNC.

If agreed upon, the CNC shall submit a recommendation to the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for approval.