

BUSINESS AND EXPERTS FORUM OF THE
CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE (CEI)
MEMBER STATES

(Milan, 15th November 2019)

Scope

In the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Central Europe Initiative (CEI), the Italian Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in collaboration with CEI General Secretariat, are promoting the *Business and Experts Forum of the Central European Initiative*, which will be held next 15th November 2019 in Milan. The Conference venue will be the seat of Assolombarda.

This Forum represents a first operative follow up to the “Declaration of Trieste”, adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministries last 12nd June 2019. Said Declaration foresees, among others, to reinforce the economic dimension of the initiative and, in particular, to deepen regional cooperation in the framework of infrastructural connectivity.

Experts and representatives of the institutions, of the business and banking sectors, of industrial associations and Infrastructures owners and managers will be invited to discuss the theme “*Infrastructural and maritime Connectivity as a development and integration factor*”.

The works will be opened by the representatives of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the General Secretariat of CEI and Assolombarda.

The morning agenda is articulated in two round tables, the first of which, will be an opportunity to analyze in detail themes such as the transport EU policies, in the framework of the 2021 – 2027 new programming period, and the identification of technological sustainable solutions, which are very relevant in the context of macroregional policies and potential development of EU corridors on the CEI area. The second round table will instead analyze issues concerning maritime and port planning in the framework of reinforcing economic and commercial relations inside and outside the CEI area.

The works will continue with a session focused on the financial instruments supporting companies which intend to implement connectivity projects in the CEI area. In particular, the financial instruments supporting Italian exports will be presented and the representatives of the European Commission, EIB and EBRD will have the opportunity to illustrate the financial instruments of their respective institutions, that are of interest for the connectivity projects in the CEI area, and answer questions from the audience.

During the evening session the representatives of businesses, small and medium enterprises and industrial associations, both inside and outside the CEI area, will share their respective business experiences with particular reference to the issue of connectivity, underlining strengths and weaknesses.

Themes and Goals

1. The perspective on European policies concerning freight transport, infrastructures and logistics on the eve of the European elections and of the opening of the new European Commissions' mandate for the years 2019 – 2024 and of the next multiannual programming framework 2021 – 2027, with particular reference to the European Corridors and their possible extension to CEI countries.
2. Development potential of maritime connections and projects in the ports sector, in order to foster the strengthening of economic relations and traffic flows between INCE and extra - INCE countries, also in light of the possible evolution of the great land and sea world commercial routes (e.g. The new Silk Road).
3. Possible signing of a Declaration of intents for 17 parties (or an alternative a Presidential Statement), in accordance with the CEI Secretariat, in order to reinforce the maritime and land connectivity in the CEI area.