

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ADRIAN NASTASE PRIME MINISTER OF
ROMANIA AT THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE SUMMIT MEETING
(TRIESTE, 23 NOVEMBER, 2001)**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to join the previous speakers in expressing my gratitude to the Italian Government, personally to H.E. Mr. Silvio Berlusconi, President of the Council of Ministers, for the outstanding arrangements made for the successful outcome of the Central European Initiative events that are taking place in Trieste under his able Chairmanship.

Much has happened since our last meeting. The international context has changed dramatically. The most horrendous threat to our common values, to our security and stability is what we have witnessed two months ago in the United States. Against the backdrop of the terrorist attacks, we all need to reflect on the new meanings of our concept of security as well as on the true sense of solidarity.

I am confident that this meeting, with the participation of the Heads of Government of Central Europe and representatives of international organizations will complement other regional efforts pertaining to the curbing and elimination of threats, which the scourge of terrorism poses to the contemporary world. It will also emphasize our solidarity, partnership and co-operation on issues of crucial importance.

There must be no safe haven for those sponsoring, organizing, harboring and supporting the execution of such criminal acts. International terrorism, whatever its motivation or origin, has no justification. It is a threat to peace and security throughout the world. It attacks the security of the individual and, as we have witnessed, it attacks indiscriminately.

Terrorists cannot operate globally without funds, without training, without support, whether active or passive. What are we doing to track down the source of those funds, to identify the location of that training, to stifle the sources of support? Are we paying enough attention to the links between terrorist organisations and organised crime's money-laundering activities and illegal arms trafficking?

But we must be certain that terrorism will not be used as an excuse for a war against religions, peoples or specific groups. We must hold in equal esteem those celebrating Thanksgiving yesterday and honouring Ramadan during this holy month.

We consider that the most effective response to this global menace is a broad-based coalition on a long-term period. The existing framework - UN, OSCE, EU, CoE, - provides us with valuable instruments to approach the problem of international terrorism in a comprehensive way.

As a sub-regional grouping, the CEI could also manifest solidarity and co-ordinate its actions in fighting terrorism. This could be done by strengthening the legislation, by exchanging information and expertise in the field of fighting terrorism and other illegal activities, by intensifying the co-operation between agencies in the CEI area. The Bucharest SECI Centre for Combating Cross-Border Crime could also provide consistent

support for combating terrorist activities building upon the practical results already achieved and the existing facilities.

As to the events in the CEI region the situation in Macedonia has given us a clear lesson that conflict can still erupt unexpectedly. The situation has stabilised for now thanks to the concerted and intense efforts of the Macedonian Government, the EU, NATO and the OSCE. We commend our Macedonian colleagues for the recent inauguration of the multicultural University in Tetovo. Another lesson to be heeded is that institutional Europe shall not tolerate sources of intra- or interstate instability. However proud we are to be nationals of our countries we are geared to become citizens of Europe.

In this context, we reaffirm our attachment to the stipulations of the UN Security Council resolution 1244, and also call for a constructive dialogue in order to achieve a mutually acceptable constitutional arrangement within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The participation of all ethnic communities and the peaceful conduct of the electorate in the Kosovo's first assembly election are a sign of political maturity. We hope this maturity will also translate into genuine support for the elections' result.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Current events have changed not only our global perspective, but also our regional one. New challenges pose the necessity of a redefined CEI. We want to be part of this process and influence the CEI's role in the larger European context. And I am here today to share our ideas on a different CEI.

On the mid-term, I see a threefold political role for the CEI:

Firstly: Ensuring interaction between EU members and aspirants, by undertaking joint projects and facilitating integration;

Secondly: Establishing a consultation forum inside the EU, for voicing common concerns affecting our region;

Thirdly: Setting-up an outreach programmes for countries outside the EU, and assisting them in achieving their European vocation.

Unfortunately, to date, the question of a regular political dialogue between the CEI and the EU has not yet been answered.

Although various CEI-EU areas of cooperation have been identified (cross-border cooperation, SMEs, transport and environment, the enlargement process, PHARE and Stability Pact programs) we should pursue other regional infrastructure projects, increased intra-regional trade and the improvement of legal and institutional frameworks.

From her own national perspective, Romania is interested in increasing cooperation in the rehabilitation of the Danube basin, tourism, agriculture, transport, SMEs, environment and combating organized crime. By the end of the month we shall co-chair with Croatia the Working Group on Tourism. We will look into modalities to promote a field where our assets are inadequately used. The project on rehabilitation of the Romanian railways, co-financed by the CEI, is proceeding accordingly and we are encouraged to seek similar projects.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to praise today the Italian Chairmanship for organizing the CEI Summit Economic Forum, with the active participation of the Ministers of economic sectors, and the first CEI Youth Forum.

The Fourth Summit Economic Forum, carried out under the generic topic "Growing together", has focused our attention on the CEI role in areas of common interest for sustainable development in the region. I encourage the organizers to follow up the new proposals and involve a broader European and international audience in the economic cooperation of the CEI.

I have noted with satisfaction that the Implementation Report of the CEI Plan of Action 2000-2001, prepared by the Executive Secretariat for this Summit, illustrates a substantial increase in CEI activities during the past two years. I am fully confident that the "CEI Plan of Action 2002-2003" we will approve today will further promote new fruitful initiatives for our regional cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely believe that conditions are more favourable today for regional cooperation than ever before. The world is different. Our region is different. The CEI will keep moving on. It is up to us all to make sure that 'different' will always mean 'better'. It is such an approach that will allow us to identify further opportunities leading us towards a shared vision of common prosperity and security in an enlarged and united Europe.

Before concluding, let me commend the outstanding performance of Ambassador Dr. Paul Harting, during his tenure as Director General of the CEI and welcome Ambassador Dr. Harald Kreid, as his successor.

We also welcome Macedonia, as the new Chair of the Central European Initiative, and assure the full support of Romania during their term in office.
Thank you for your attention.

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