

Coming Up in February

14-15 February, Trieste - 5th
R.A.V.E. Space Project Meeting

23 February, Sofia - CNC Meeting //

The Committee of National
Coordinators will gather for its
first meeting under the
Bulgarian Presidency.

New Chairman for CEI Committee of National Coordinators



Master's Degree in Inter-
national Relations at the
University of National and
World Economy in Sofia, CEI
National Coordinator Svilen
Iliev (see photo above) is cur-
rently Minister Plenipoten-
tiary and Head of the
Department "Europe III".

In his capacity as CEI NC, he
will act as Chairman of the
Committee of National
Coordinators during this
year's CEI Bulgarian
Presidency.

Bulgaria Announces Priorities of its Presidency

As of the beginning of
2007 the CEI Presidency
was taken over by Bulgaria,
coinciding with the coun-
try's accession to the
European Union. Already in
November 2006 CEI
Director General Harald
Kreid had an opportunity to
discuss with high ranking
Bulgarian representatives,
including the Deputy Prime
Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs Ivaylo
Kalpin, some of the salient



Min. Ivaylo Kalpin and Amb. Harald Kreid at their meeting in November

events which will be organised in Bulgaria during the
year 2007. On this same occasion Bulgaria set up an
inter-ministerial Coordination Committee and an
Office of Operations headed by the CEI National
Coordinator Svilen Iliev.

Foreign Minister Kalpin confirmed the intention of his

government to strengthen the role of the CEI in accor-
dance with the new realities after the fifth enlarge-
ment of the European Union and to play an active role
in the process of repositioning the CEI initiated by
Italy. Taking full advantage of the experience gained
during its 10 years of membership in the CEI, Bulgaria

supports the idea of focusing
the CEI activities on its nine
non-EU Member States. Special
synergies will be derived from
the fact that Bulgaria, from
April 2007 onwards, will also
hold the Chairmanship of the
South-East European
Cooperation Process which
finds itself in a crucial stage of
its development in view of the
phasing out of the Stability
Pact for South Eastern Europe
and the need to create ade-
quate follow-up structures.



Family photo on the occasion of the CNC meeting in December 2006 at the CEI Headquarters in Trieste

Departing Italian NC Urges Stronger Commitment from CEI Member States



Min. Pierandrea Magistrati has been CEI National Coordinator from 2004 to 2006. He has recently been appointed as Ambassador of Italy in Kenya. Here is what he has to say regarding his experience with this organisation:

How would you describe

your personal experience with the CEI in your capacity as Italian National Coordinator?

Magistrati: This experience has been very profitable. I feel enriched by it, since it offered me an opportunity to familiarize myself with the CEI region, its countries and its cultures. And I also meet a group of professional colleagues who have become, over time, real friends.

In which way would you evaluate the future role of Italy as main donor of this Initiative?

Magistrati: I think that the role of Italy as the main donor will continue but it ought to be complemented by a stronger commitment of other

Member States, especially the EU Member States of the CEI. Anyway, Italy considers the CEI as a useful instrument to facilitate the access of the Balkan countries to European institutions and for the strengthening of closer relations with the former CIS Countries. Italy strongly supports these priorities within CEI framework.

In your opinion, which is the role and added value of the CEI with respect to other regional actors?

Magistrati: First of all, the CEI is the oldest regional initiative in the South-Eastern European area. Year after year, this Initiative has been able to accumulate a kind of experience which no other regional actor could. Moreover, the CEI is the only organisation in the area that groups together countries belonging to the European Union, to the Balkans and to the Commonwealth of Independent States. Another “added value” of CEI is the level of institutionalisation of its working structures; the Executive Secretariat in Trieste, which is well structured and organized, can be considered the best example of this institutionalisation. Last but not the least, in the light of the latest European enlargement, this important Initiative is going to reposition itself. Indeed, a Task Force is going to start its work in the weeks to come, in order to better define the scope and focus of CEI activities and its instruments in the next future.

Deadlines for Submitting CEI Projects in April and October

There are two deadlines for submitting applications for Co-operation Activities: 1 April (for implementation from July to December) and 1 October (for implementation from January to June). If your institution/organisation belongs to a CEI Member State and is organising a small scale event taking the form of a seminar, workshop, training course or other kind of meeting limited in time and involving several CEI non-EU Member States, contact us in order to submit a Cooperation Activity proposal by April 1!

You can find the Application Form as well as the CEI Rules for Allocation of Resources at www.ceinet.org (Chapter 5.2.1.). A list of the approved CEI Co-operation Activities is also available (Chapter 6.2.1.).

CEI Cooperation with Carpathian Convention

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CEI Executive Secretariat and the UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on 13 December 2006 on the occasion of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention held in Kiev (see photo).

The two Secretariats are already cooperating in the INTERREG III B Cadses “Carpathian Project”, which represents an important instrument for enhancing the protection and sustainable development of the exceptional natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathian Region.

The agreement between the two Secretariats is motivated by the fact that all seven Parties to the Convention are CEI Member States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine); that one of the core issues outlined in the CEI Plan of Action for 2007-09 focuses on “Cooperation in Mountain Regions” and that the Convention pursues the objectives laid down in the CEI Guidelines.



According to the MoU special attention will be paid to such issues of mutual concern as mountain protection, sustainable development at regional level as well as to the fields of transport and infrastructure, agriculture and tourism.

CEI Awards 2006 Prizes “From Research to Enterprise”

Award Ceremony for six prize-worthy projects

The last CNC meeting of the Albanian Presidency witnessed the award ceremony for the “From Research to Enterprise” prizes.

The event, held on the CEI premises on 15 December, was opened by Mr. Carlo Rizzuto, President of “Elettra Sincrotrone” and chairman of the Selection Committee.

In his introductory speech he pointed out that with these prizes the CEI “wants to be revolutionary by following the *US model*, where young people are given an opportunity to put their ideas into practice... this is why we have chosen to bestow these prizes upon young people”.

Five projects, selected from among 30 proposals, were evaluated in terms of their potential in product/process innovation, technical/scientific credibility and economic impact. The 15.000 EUR award will enable the following young scientists from 5 CEI non-EU Member States to commercialise their scientific inventions:

Eduard Snezhko from Belarus for the “Media Content Conversion for Colour-blind Users”;

Mariela Marinova from Bulgaria for the “Development and Application of Perspective Biological Product Control against Fall Webworm - *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury)”;

Hrvoje Stefancic from Croatia for the “Package for Numerical Solution



Family photo with winners of the “From Research to Enterprise” prizes

of Problems in Electrostatics Based on the Iterative non Local Charge Transfers”;

Dragan Mitic from Serbia represented by Milan Protic for the “Technology and Production Development of High Energy Content Briquettes and Pelletes”;

Andrey Malinovsky from Ukraine represented by Mr. Sergey Ambrosov for the “New Atto-and Nano-technology for Construction of the Pattern Glass with the Special Surface Covering” .

Moreover, the Slovak project “EUROSEN” channeled through the CEI, was selected as winner of both the CEI Nanochallenge Special Prize (20.000 EUR) as well as of the 300.000 prize offered by “Veneto Nanotech”, partner of the CEI in the section reserved to the nanotechnologies in this call.

CEI Medals of Honour for Six Dedicated Collaborators

The CNC meeting also acted as a platform for the con-
signment of CEI Medals of Honour to the following six
persons who have made valuable contributions to the
CEI through their strong commitment and dedication:

Agim Pasholli, Director of Multilateral Initiatives at the
Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the
CEI Committee of National Coordinators;

Pierandrea Magistrati, Italian National Coordinator
from 2004 to 2006, who has been appointed
Ambassador of Italy in Kenya;

Domenico Romeo, former Rector of the University of

Trieste in his capacity as Secretary General of the CEI University Network; Giovanni Baiocchi, Chancellor of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, former Secretary of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension; Alois Geisslhofer, former Managing Director of the Austrian Energy Agency and Co-Chairman of the CEI Working Group on Energy; Lara Tassan Zanin, former Head of the CEI Funding Unit and recently appointed as Monitoring Officer at the EIB in Luxemburg.



from left: Baiocchi, Geisslhofer, Romeo, Kreid, Tassan Zanin, Magistrati, Pasholli

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Trieste Film Festival: CEI Event on the New Bulgarian Cinema



The 2007 Trieste Film Festival presented a CEI event, consisting of a roundtable discussion about the new Bulgarian film followed by the projection of several films from this country which holds the current CEI Presidency.

Under the title "The New Bulgarian Cinema", held on 19 January at the Urban Hotel in Trieste, the special event aimed at underlining the rebirth and new identity of Bulgarian cinematography after the critical 90's where very few films were produced.

Producer Rossica Valkanova, Director Vassil Zivkov and scriptwriter and journalist Borjana Mateeva provided the audience with a panorama

of the new cinema production in their country.

Among the competing Bulgarian films, special attention was paid to a feature film "Christmas Tree Upside Down" (by Ivan Cerkelov, feature film director and Vasil Zivkov, documentary director) which tries to depict the reality the Bulgarian population is currently living in. The film was produced by two directors because "we found that we had common ideas in order to create an authentic film... to show the reality in Bulgaria our way, through fiction and documentary", said Mr. Zivkov.

Ms. Valkanova defined the new identity of the Bulgarian Cinema as something which "will hopefully preserve our mentality...our primitiveness of truly expressing ourselves ...and I hope that by moving towards the west we do not reach a state I think the west is already running away from. If we lose our identity and our cinema production turns out to be merely a means of consumption, a new cinema would be useless".

"We are Europeans but different Europeans who have lived different historical experiences linked to a totalitarian society, we therefore have to try to form our new identity" underlined Zivkov.

Mateeva highlighted that "in Bulgaria, we are talking about resurrection of the Bulgarian cinema but before we will be able to talk about a 'new wave', we need time. I can, however, say that something is happening and wish to recall the motto presented at the 5th Trieste Film Festival, "Nuovi angeli, vecchi fantasmi - il cinema bulgaro dopo il 1989" (New Angels, Old Ghosts - Bulgarian Cinema after 1989) because I think we are going to eliminate the old ghosts of the Bulgarian cinema and turn up its Christmas tree!"

CEI Award to Albanian Film "Magic Eye"

Director Kujtim Cashku started out his career in 1975 as an assistant director after studying at the Institute of Theater and Film Art in Bucharest. Prior to that, Cashku had studied at the Higher Institute of Arts in Tirana. He is the Founder and director of the new cinema school as well as of the new international festival on human rights.

Among the films presented for the International Feature Film Competition, the CEI prize at the 18th edition of the Trieste Film Festival went to Albania's MAGIC EYE, a German co-production, by Kujtim Cashku (see photo below) for his commitment to the development of the Albanian cinema.

The 2,500 EUR Award was presented to the artist by Mr. Mykola Melenevsky, Deputy Director General of the CEI Executive Secretariat.

Selected as best film "able to represent different cultures in a contemporary reality", the German-Albanian co-production sets the events in Albania's troubled recent past. "Magic Eye" is the story of a photographer becoming the witness to tragic events, including the death of an innocent child and its resulting consequences.

For more info: www.triestefilmfestival.it



From left: Director Cashku and CEI-ES DDG Melenevsky