

### Coming Up Events: July - September

9-13 July

Lipica (Slovenia)

**R.A.V.E. Space Summer  
Camp**

19 July

Gorizia (Italy)

**IDEA Project Meeting**

2-15 September

Cervia (Italy)

**CEI Summer School of  
Cervia**

5-6 September

Lipica (Slovenia)

**International Literary  
Festival Vilenica 2007**

13-14 September

Varna (Bulgaria)

**CEI Meeting of the Heads of  
Tourism Administrations**

19-21 September

Trieste (Italy)

**CNC Meeting**

26-28 September

Szczecin (Poland)

**AB Landbridge 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Consortium Meeting**

30-2 October

Varna (Bulgaria)

**CEI Meeting of the Ministers  
of Transport**

## Task Force on Repositioning of Central European Initiative Completes Its Mandate

The Task Force on the Repositioning of the CEI, consisting of representatives of seven CEI Member States, according to the proposal presented by Italy at the Summit of Heads of Government in Tirana (Nov. 2006), concluded its work in June after having examined the following aspects:

The CEI Mandate; the CEI as Forum for Political Dialogue; the Operational Activities of the CEI; the Future Areas of Activity of the CEI; the Financial Requirements of the CEI and the Contributions by its Member States; the CEI Working Structures; the

Relationship of the CEI with the European Union; the CEI in the Regional Context and its Relationship with other Regional Actors.

The Task Force, which was chaired by Minister Eugenio Campo, Italy, submitted its 22 Recommendations, for a first round of discussions, to the Meeting of the National Coordinators on 22 June. They will be further discussed in September with a view to submitting them to the Meeting of Heads of Government in November 2007 which will decide on how and to which extent they will be implemented.

## Third CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators



The Third CEI Venice Forum for Contemporary Art Curators, organised by the **Trieste Contemporanea Committee**, was held on 7 and 8 June at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in the Palazzo Zorzi in Venice.

Under the title "Outposts" the participants discussed the challenges of planning and implementing international art events in the light of what they called the "crisis of the traditional art museum" and the exponential growth of periodical art events such as Biennials, frequently in the form of media shows.

The curators of the countries of Eastern Europe, coming from a region of rapid transformation and changes in structures and methodologies, are well placed to add new insights and perspectives to these issues.

Altogether there were 68 participants from 21 countries involved in a fertile exchange of views, thus demonstrating the added value of the periphery which has much to teach to the "hotspots" of artistic activity such as the Venice Biennale.

For more information: [www.triestecontemporanea.it](http://www.triestecontemporanea.it)

# SPECIAL FOCUS ON BELARUS

## CEI Awards at International Film Festival of Ecological Cinema in Minsk

On 5-7 June 2007, cinematographers from 7 CEI Member States (Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine) gathered in Minsk on the occasion of the International Film Festival of Ecological Cinema.

Organized by the public association Byelorussian Union of Cinematography, the event attracted numerous representatives of youth ecological organizations, writers, playwrights, academic and educational institutions as well as state institutions and the media, among them the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, of Culture and of Emergency Situations, the Interstate Broadcasting Company "MIR", Radio 107.1 FM, and the Ecological University.

The jury selected from among the 30 documentaries submitted the three winners of the CEI awards - for the best documentary on environmental protection, for the best direction and for the best artistic presentation.



Victory Square in Minsk

The awards were respectively bestowed upon the Bulgarian producer Eldora Traikova for her film "Park of the Dancing Bears"; to the Czech producer Joseph Lisavovsky for his film "Twilight of Darkness"; and to Alexander Sykalo from Belarus for his TV program "Balance". The event was also supported by the UN, UNDP and the World Bank.

## Conference on "Emergency Situations: Prevention and Elimination" in Minsk

A conference on "EMERGENCY SITUATIONS: PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION" was held in Minsk on 6-8 June 2007. It was organized by the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and the Central European Initiative. The event was attended by representatives from 30 countries

worldwide, 9 of which were CEI Member States (Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine). Presentations and discussions focused on issues of life safety provision and protection from man-made and natural disasters. Participants exchanged views on how to enhance the safety and protection of people and territories in emergency situations. In this context, they examined new methods of education and training in order to increase resilience to emergencies.

## CEI International Seminar on Modern Technologies for Development of Renewable Energies

More than 200 experts from 10 CEI Member States participated in the CEI International Seminar of Modern Technologies for the Development of Renewable Energies (Minsk, Belarus, June 4-5 2007) dedicated the promotion of the use of modern technologies to be applied to the development of renewable energy sources.

Among the recommendations approved as a conclusion of the Seminar, the need for fostering the use of biomass from an economic and technological point of view, especially in CEI Member States in the Eastern and Balkan regions; the exchange of scientific, technological and industrial experiences at international level for an increasing use of domestic fuels and, consequently, for limiting the demand for non-renewable sources of energy; identification of projects supporting both the development of

renewable energies and the achievement of a more efficient use of energy; importance of an increasing application of the Kyoto Protocol related measures.

The Seminar results were thoroughly discussed at the meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs (GCEA), held on June 6 at the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. On that occasion the commitment of the CEI in the field of renewable energy was confirmed.

Mr. Gianfranco Cicognani, Expert for Science and Technology of the CEI Executive Secretariat, focused his statement on the on-going Interreg IIIA BIOM ADRIA Project, the results of which will be passed on to the interested CEI Member Countries. In particular, the CEI will consider the possibility of organising in Minsk in the period March-April 2008 a Workshop devoted to the discussion/transfer of the BIOM-ADRIA Project results, thus contributing to the Belarusian efforts towards the development of biomass as a domestic renewable energy source.

*to be continued on next page...*

...Continues from previous page

## Parliamentarians Meet in Minsk to Urge Cooperation on SME and Energy Issues

On 5-7 June, the House of the Parliament of Belarus (Minsk) hosted the first meeting of the CEI-Parliamentary Dimension (PD) General Committee on Economic Affairs.

Parliamentarians and delegations from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (see photo right) gathered in the capital city of Belarus to discuss "Traditional and alternative sources of energy and the applicable legal regulation" and "Development of small and medium sized enterprises" in the CEI region.

The Chairman of the Committee, also the Head of the Romanian delegation to the CEI PD, Mr. Bogdan Pascu, emphasised "the need for better cooperation between the CEI PD and the Governmental Dimension, a further development of the PD Rules of Procedure and improvement of dialogue with other regional fora." He also defined the role of the PD General Committees as "the supply-lab for the Parliamentary Assembly working materials" and stated that "the PD has to assume the role of supplying the CEI with innovative and useful ideas relevant to the repositioning of the Organization."

Participants urged the CEI to make steps forward towards: environmen-

tally-friendly, "clean" energy sources backed by appropriate legal framework; development of SMEs as a pillar of sustainable economies, in particular in the transition areas.

Moreover, the meeting adopted a Resolution to be submitted to the 2007 Session of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly paying special attention to extended regional cooperation of the PD concerning international energy distribution networks and the adoption of sustainable policies on energy as well as the need to develop friendly and adequate policies fostering the development of SMEs.

A report to be presented to the CEI Parliamentary Assembly in November 2007 in Sofia on the occasion of the CEI Summit of Heads of Government will be prepared.



## 10th Summit Economic Forum: Mobilising Resources for a Common Future

On 18-20 June, the Central European Initiative Project Secretariat (CEI-PS) hosted a delegation which was headed by Mr Lachesar Borisov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy of Bulgaria, and composed of representatives of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Economy and the Bulgarian Economic Forum – co-organisers of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the CEI Summit Economic Forum (Sofia, 20-21 November), under the main leading theme of "Mobilising Resources for a Common Future".

The CEI-PS and the Bulgarian counterparts discussed and agreed upon the responsibilities of each partner, the programme and the financing of the event.

Among the special Forum sessions are:

- a discussion of the EBRD Report on People in Transition including a review of the results of the EBRD/World Bank Life in Transition Survey (LITS);
- a session on extending the benefits of energy efficiency projects to the residential sector and built environment;
- a roundtable, managed by Trenitalia, on freight transport and the necessary changes in service models and organisation of railway companies in order to respond to market needs.

For updated information: [www.ceinet.org/SEF](http://www.ceinet.org/SEF)

## SME Development: First Assessment of Impact of IDEA Project at National Level

The three Project partners – the Italian-based INFORMEST, the Bulgarian SME Promotion Agency and the CEI – jointly organised the Final Conference of the IDEA Project, in Sofia on 8 June 2007. The main topic on the agenda was an evaluation of the Interactive Web Platform as the main result of this Project.

This instrument provides specific online facilities for SME development such as a database of Business Support Organisations (currently more than 230) as well as a comprehensive list of projects under implementation (currently 650).

IDEA National Focal Points and representatives of the public and private sectors exchanged views and experiences on the impact of the Project at national level and presented proposals in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Interactive Web Platform and ensure its self-sustainability.

As of now, 14 CEI Member States participate in the Project. The CEI Executive Secretariat will make efforts to also involve the four CEI countries not yet included in it.

The next occasion for dissemination and evaluation of the IDEA Project will be the 10th CEI Summit Economic Forum on 20-21 November 2007 in Sofia.

For more information: [www.ceinet.org](http://www.ceinet.org) and [www.ideanetwork.eu](http://www.ideanetwork.eu)

## CEI Youth Orchestra Executive Board on EU Funding Possibilities



Music institutions from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania met in Vienna on 26 June, on the occasion of the third Executive Board meeting of the CEI Youth Orchestra.

The gathering, chaired by Amb. Harald Kreid, Director General of the CEI Executive Secretariat, focused on the overall activities carried out during the first two years of the Orchestra under the CEI umbrella as well as on decisions regarding the simplification of its organisational structure.

The occasion was especially used to discuss the steps to be taken for the preparation of an application for the next call for proposals of the EU Culture Programme (2007-2013). The above-mentioned institutions (including the Czech Republic) will act as Co-organisers of the Project and the CEI Executive Secretariat as Project Coordinator.

For more info on Summer Concert Tour:  
[www.ceiyouthorchestra.eu](http://www.ceiyouthorchestra.eu)



## Senior Executive Officer Leaves the CEI Executive Secretariat

Ms. Giulietta Del Fabbro was seconded to the CEI Executive Secretariat in 2002 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After five years as Senior Executive Officer, dealing with the CEI Science and Technology Network, the CEI University Network and the CEI Working Groups on Culture, Education and SGT, she is returning to the Ministry in Rome where she will be attached to the Directorate-General for Europe.

## CEI Scholarships for Summer School on "Information Literacy"

In cooperation with the CEI, EnIL (European Network for Information Literacy) organises a Summer School on "Information Literacy" from 10-14 September in the Italian town of Fermo, Region of Marche. The participation is open to graduates and undergraduates from CEI Member States regularly attending an academic degree programme. The CEI offers twelve scholarships covering travel and accommodation expenses to applicants from non-EU Member States of the CEI on the basis of their academic record.

**Deadline for applications: 27 July, 2007**

For more information: <http://enil.ceris.cnr.it/SummerSchool/index.htm> or contact Ms. Carla Basili at [c.basili@ceris.cnr.it](mailto:c.basili@ceris.cnr.it)

## CEI Fostering Information and Communication Technologies

The first meeting of the Task Force on ICT was held on 21 June, 2007 at the CEI Headquarters gathering representatives from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia.

The main concern of the Task Force is the prevention of the emergence of a "digital divide" between the CEI countries. The Task Force examined two cooperation activities approved for implementation in 2007: a summer school on "Information Literacy" to be held in Italy and a conference on "New Trends in Informatics and Mathematics" in Sofia.

The GreatIST project of which the CEI is a partner as well as the experience of Task Force members in networks and projects such as ALADIN (Alpe Adria Universities Initiative), LivingLabs, the Bled E-Conference were considered as additional good examples of activities to achieve the strategic goal of the Task Force within the CEI region. The 10th CEI Summit Economic Forum, to be held in Sofia in November, will dedicate a special panel session to this issue.