



TRIESTE DECLARATION

adopted at the CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (19 October 2011)

The Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Central European Initiative (CEI) met in Trieste on 19 October, 2011 and unanimously adopted the following resolutions called “The Trieste Declaration”. In this context they referred in particular to the proposed “HORIZON 2020” EU Research and Innovation Programme, stressing the need that the investments in Research Infrastructures should be developed and planned on all available financial instruments. These investments will only be fruitful if a better synergy is achieved with a strengthened support by Horizon 2020 to “open Pan-European Operation” of these infrastructures, supporting “institutional excellence” alongside and with equal resources and a peer-review based approach as in the action for “individual excellence” already developed by the European Research Council.

1. “Upon a proposal by the Chair, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation welcomed the proposal by the Italian Government and by the President of “Elettra” and “Fermi” laboratories aiming at institutionalizing the access and the participation in the activities of the afore-mentioned laboratories (Synchrotron Radiation Facility “Elettra” and the new Free Electron Laser Laboratory “Fermi”) by the scientific communities of CEI Member States in collaboration and in partnership with other laboratories operating and/or being developed in the CEI Member States, reinforcing the capability to attract the best talents and reverse the brain drain to fully benefit from brain circulation, through transfer of ideas and opportunities. They expressed their commitment to promote the strengthening of the links between the investments in research infrastructures and the development of common research and innovation policies connected to the European Union Framework Programmes. This should create synergies and best results in terms of research and innovation capacity building as well as of socio-economic impact and establish the basis for a stronger success, also in this area, in the pre-accession phase for countries in view of joining the EU. The Heads of Delegation, asked the CEI Secretariat in coordination with the Presidency, (with the Chair of the EU) with the Italian Government and with the President of “Elettra” and “Fermi” to further support the development of partnerships between the Institutions operating in the CEI Member States (also in the framework of Council Regulation EC N. 723/2009 aiming at pooling resources on a scientific-quality basis and asking for a specific EU support of the joint activities open to further EU and international collaborations)”.
2. “Without underestimating the constraints of the present global financial crisis imposed on state budgets, all delegations shared the desirability of a participation in the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in a near future by all CEI Member States, recognising the value of the scientific cooperation performed in the context of ICGEB. They mandated the CEI Secretariat to verify with the European Commission the possibility of specific financial support by the EC in order to accomplish this objective.”
3. “Upon a proposal by the Chair, Ministers and other Heads of Delegation complimented the CEI Secretariat for the outstanding activities conducted so far concerning Next Generation Biofuels and for the preliminary concept for a CEI comprehensive and interdisciplinary regional R&D project in this field. They strongly recommended that the current and future presidencies should provide continuous support to this initiative in view of facilitating the accomplishment of all the outcomes envisaged. More specifically, they mandated the Secretariat to establish without delay a Network of Centres of Excellence as the basis on which the regional project should develop and, at the same time, to ensure that top experts from different Ministries in CEI Member States (Energy, Environment, Agriculture and others besides Research and Innovation) are involved in order to mobilise consensus and actual participation as large as possible.
Furthermore, they mandated the Secretariat to identify with different Directorates of the European Commission the most appropriate ways to attract all possible means of financial support from the EC, from IFIs and from other public and/or private Donors.”
4. “Finally Delegations unanimously invited Ukraine to convene the next CEI Ministerial meeting on Science and Technology during its Presidency in order to ensure an appropriate follow up based on the progress in the implementation of the three above resolutions adopted in Trieste.”