



## **PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>**

### **on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2<sup>st</sup> half 2011 or - May 2011 / Ohrid till December 2011 / Sarajevo)**

#### **1 Policy actions**

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

N/A

#### **2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework**

N/A

#### **3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.**

##### a) Ministerial Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Agriculture, Belgrade 13 May 2011

Mr. Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, CEI Alternate Secretary General in his speech tackled a strategic initiative promoted by the Secretariat on Next Generation Biofuels, i.e. biofuels produced from feedstock, such as agricultural waste or forestry waste. Such project would apply many EC priority “mantras” such as energy, environment, research and development, strengthening SMEs through innovation and export opportunities, and, of course, sustainable agriculture.

##### b) CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, Trieste 19 October 2011

The Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of the CEI Member States unanimously adopted “The Trieste Declaration” (attached). 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

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<sup>1</sup> The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage ([www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@zwbc-inco.net](mailto:office@zwbc-inco.net) until November 22, 2011.

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.

**c) CEI Expert Meeting on Next Generation Biofuels and 2<sup>nd</sup> SEDRI Task Force Meeting, to be held in Belgrade on 24 November 2011**

Prospects for an integrated and interdisciplinary regional project on Next Generation Biofuels, which represents a priority option for eighteen CEI Member States, is a prominent topic of the first part of the meeting. The second part will be dedicated to SEDRI, a coordination effort of the CEI and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) for a joint action in the area of sustainable energy development aimed to maximise the benefits for the Participating countries of SEE by facilitating their access to financial instruments made available by IFIs to support innovative projects in the field of renewable energy.

**4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

Collecting support at Governmental level as well as from the scientific communities in CEI Member Countries in order to define a dedicated, integrated, interdisciplinary regional project on Next Generation Biofuels, conceived in order to attract several funding instruments from the European Commission to be distributed among beneficiaries according to the status of the respective countries vs. the European Union (EU Members, Candidate and future candidate countries, Neighbours).

**5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data**

N/A

**6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months**

Any contribution and/or suggestion from the members/participants to the Steering Platform on Research in WBC would be greatly appreciated and will be used in the definition of the Plan of Action of the CEI Secretariat in the next semester, which already looks very intensive.

**Appendix: additional data**

“The Trieste Declaration” adopted at the CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, Trieste 19 October 2011