

Istituto Affari Internazionali in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Central European Initiative (CEI) are glad to invite you to the

CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FORUM

10-11 OCTOBER 2019

IAI LIBRARY
VIA ANGELO BRUNETTI, 9

Thirty years after the foundation of the Central European Initiative (CEI), despite their reciprocal geopolitical and economic differences, CEI member countries are still facing similar challenges when it comes to the downside of economic globalisation. On the occasion of the Italian Presidency, the CEI Dialogue Forum is a unique opportunity to address some of today's major economic challenges, such as mobility and youth employment, or the need for a balance between competition, public policies and modern entrepreneurship. Launched by the Istituto Affari Internazionali in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Central European Initiative, the CEI Dialogue Forum aims at stimulating a frank and open dialogue between 17 experts from the region, representing institutions, the industry, academia and civil society to exchange ideas, highlight new forms of regional cooperation and provide policy recommendations on how CEI could facilitate fairer economic trends in its member countries.

AGENDA – DAY 1

10 October

16:30 Welcome coffee

17:00 **Welcome remarks**

ROBERTO ANTONIONE Secretary General, CEI

FERDINANDO NELLI FEROCI President, IAI

FEDERICA FERRARI BRAVO Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (TBC)

17:20 **Panel 1: Mobility and youth employment**

Over the last decade, an increasing mobility of labour forces has allowed youngsters to move abroad and access new opportunities. Often facilitated by countries of origin or by international organizations, youth mobility has been long considered as a tool to reduce unemployment rates, while improving individual working conditions and professional skills. However, when it turns into a “brain drain” of the best and brightest young professionals of single countries, mobility can reduce chances for a sustainable and fair economic development. Not by chance, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the need to boost fair and equitable employment policies, especially for young people. Within this frame, experts will be asked to analyse which policies should be promoted by single governments in order to balance youth employment and mobility. In particular, is it possible to preserve the positive aspects of mobility? How can mobility cease to be a necessary choice and become one of many great opportunities for CEI countries?

Chair:

ELEONORA POLI Research Fellow, IAI

Speakers:

DOMINIK OWCZAREK Head of the Social Policy Programme, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

SRDJAN MAJSTOROVIC Chairman of the Governing Board of the European Policy Centre –CEP, Serbia

Discussants:

DAFINA PECI Board of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) and Director of National Youth Congress, Albania

VALERIJA BOTRIC Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Economics, Croatia

VLADIMÍR BARTOVIC Director, Europeum, Czech Republic

LAURA PATACHE Associate Professor Ia Spiru Haret University - Central Research Institute, Romania

MELIHA MUHERINA Project manager at the Centre for European Perspective, Slovenia

TETIANA LEVONIUK Researcher, New Europe Center, Ukraine

20:00 **Networking dinner**

Restaurant “Babette” - Via Margutta, 3

AGENDA – DAY 2

11 October

9:30 Panel 2: Entrepreneurship, competition and national policies

Economic globalization and technological advances have led to an exceptional opening of markets and to greater business opportunities. However, new entrepreneurs are often unable to compete in terms of volumes, productivity or costs with large multinational businesses. Without regulations, this trend can certainly affect a fair competition, leading to forms of market monopolies or predominant positions at the expenses of new and relatively smaller business initiatives. The panel experts will therefore be asked to analyse entrepreneurships, especially youth entrepreneurships, in their respective countries and discuss national public policies implemented so far. In particular, apart from regulating competition, is it fair and sustainable for national governments to support new businesses through public initiatives or schemes? When does public intervention cease to be a driving force for a more sustainable economy and become protectionism or unfair state aid?

Chair:

ELEONORA POLI Research Fellow, IAI

Speakers:

MARIJANA MILEVSKA Director at PREDA PLUS Foundation for sustainable economic development, North Macedonia

SIMONE ROMANO Advisor, G7/G20 Unit, Italy

Discussants:

ZSUZSANNA VISZLAY Environmental Manager and Green Economy Expert, Hungary

IVANA JOVOVIC Business Development and International Sales, Bredmed Ltd. Montenegro

ADMIR SALIHAGIĆ Director at Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, IBU, Bosnia Herzegovina

MILENA STOYCHEVA Chief Executive Officer, Junior Achievement, Bulgaria

11:30 Conclusive remarks

ETTORE GRECO Executive Vice President, IAI

ANTAL NIKOLETTI Deputy Secretary General, CEI

12:00 Light lunch