

SLOVAKIA – Opening Statement – GA WIPO 2016

Delivered on October 4, 2016

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Slovak Republic let me thank you for stepping in as the current Chair of this General Assembly. We believe that under your able guidance we will reach a successful outcome. As of this GA, we are fully aware that the GA WIPO is the most important meeting of the WIPO Member States every year and there are various and serious challenges ahead of us also this year.

The Slovak delegation associates itself with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the CEBS group and with the EU opening statement.

At the outset, allow me to focus more on expert WIPO committees such as SCT and SCCR and their normative challenges. Regarding the SCT we would like to emphasize the urgent necessity to find possible way forward after one failed attempt to convene the Diplomatic Conference for the Design Law Treaty. It is worthy to mention that the DLT would simplify and align design registration formalities and procedures. Therefore and having stated that we believe that the legal provisions of the DLT – which is mature and well-discussed enough – should be of purely technical and not political nature. Following the SCCR sessions, we remain convinced that setting a roadmap by this GA for our discussions at the SCCR would help us in convening the Diplomatic Conference for the protection of broadcasting organizations as soon as technically possible. Our aim is still to ensure modern protection of broadcasting organizations responding to the current technological development. As regards the topic of protection of broadcasting organizations and the topic of exceptions and limitations, these two topics are different not only by their substance, but mostly by the level of maturity of discussions held here at WIPO. But in both cases, we would like to present our full preparation and engagement in the debate.

Slovakia would also like to take this opportunity and to congratulate WIPO and all WIPO countries for the entry of the Marrakesh Treaty into force only after three years after its adoption.

Regarding the other matters that can raise some concerns of Member States, these are mostly governance issues.

First of all, we welcome the financial contributions of some Member States to the Lisbon Union, which will help to cover the deficit. We also remain committed to discuss options for financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union for the future.

The Program and Budget Committee did not reach consensus on the opening of the WIPO External Offices despite the efforts of Member States and the Chair of PBC. We hope that after further discussions about this item during this GA, the right solution appropriate for all countries willing to host EO will be found.

Concerning governance issues of WIPO, we have witnessed discussions about report issued by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services. Slovakia would like to emphasize that in compliance with recommendations of the General Assembly Chair and the Coordination

Committee Chair not to re-open the cases contained in the report. At the same time, we would welcome any steps that could lead to ensuring and improving the transparency of the organisation and we look forward to the conclusion of this matter as soon as possible in a transparent manner.

As regards the procedural matters, new proposal to change the electoral cycle of Chair of GA WIPO was submitted to the General Assembly WIPO. We are of the opinion that it has very reasonable basis and could gain large support from Member States.

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to inform about three recent major achievements in the field of IP protection and IPRs enforcement in Slovakia. As of July 1, 2016 the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) and its branch V4 offices including the Industrial Property Office of the SR started to operate as the International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) within the meaning of the PCT. On the same day an important reform of the Slovak judicial system entered into force related to the court competence in the field of intellectual property. Industrial property disputes shall be decided exclusively by the sole competent District Court in Banská Bystrica. For copyright disputes and disputes arising from unfair competition three relevant district courts were appointed. The third achievement falls within a non-judicial enforcement. The Slovak national domain name Registry introduced a new Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedure to enable quick and high-grade resolution of domain name disputes.

Last, but not least, please allow me, Mr. Chair, to kindly invite their Excellencies to the Slovak Event, which will be held on the premises of WIPO on October 4, 2016. Let me also express my sincere thanks to the WIPO for its cooperation. This event will give Slovakia a unique opportunity to present the country, culture and traditions in fresh and modern way going hand in hand with the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Thank you.