

FULL STATEMENT FOR THE RECORDS

**57 SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER
STATES OF WIPO
GENERAL STATEMENT
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
AGENDA ITEM 5**

Chairman,

The Delegation of Poland associates itself with the statements made by Estonia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and Georgia on behalf of the Central Europe and Baltic States.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the presented reports which reflect the progress made and the results achieved by the Organization in 2016. We note with satisfaction the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report and would like to encourage the WIPO Secretariat to further improve, and even to increase, its efforts and activities, thus maintaining viability and efficiency of the Organization.

Poland acknowledges WIPO's continuing efforts to improve the global IP systems (PCT, Madrid and the Hague), provide new IT services to users, institute user-friendly amendments and increase efficiency and we appreciate the progress made and the positive developments with regard to their effective functioning.

We support the activities of the PCT Working Group towards enhancing the PCT system and its use by users and industrial property offices. Poland, as a member of the Visegrad Patent Institute – the VPI, contributes to the good functioning of the system by providing high quality services to its users in Poland and from other countries who

appoint the VPI as an International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authority.

Further improvements to and completion of the international normative framework for a balanced and effective international IP system continues to be important. Poland welcomes the agreement reached during the 26th session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents to continue discussions on the five balanced topics. We are satisfied with the SCP's ongoing work on important issues, particularly on patent quality, including opposition systems and the confidentiality of communications between client and patent attorney. Further work in this area is beneficial for all countries, irrespective of their level of development, since it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system.

With regard to the SCT, Poland regrets that the 56. General Assembly was not able to decide positively on the convening of a diplomatic conference at its last session. The text that all of us have negotiated so long is mature. We are strongly convinced that the treaty will bring real benefits to Member State businesses wishing to operate abroad. Simplifying and aligning application procedures will render the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs more effective and this will significantly contribute to reducing costs and bureaucracy linked to exporting. We hope that these Assemblies will take a decision on a date for a diplomatic conference on the designs formalities treaty in 2018.

Poland recognizes the importance of the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Poland continues to be in favor of evidence-based approach and text-based negotiations only after agreement on the core issues is reached. We remain willing to work towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome.

As far as the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) is concerned – for Poland - the main priority is focusing on establishing a roadmap on future work on the Treaty for the Protection of

Broadcasting Organizations. Poland recognizes and supports the need to adopt a meaningful treaty on the protection of the broadcasting organizations which would take into account the rapid developments of technology and the current and future needs of these entities.

Poland has been very supportive of a broad program of work for the Advisory Committee for Enforcement, sharing with other member states our own experience in this regard and aiming at building respect for Intellectual Property among general public. That is why we are in favour of regular ACE meetings, on a yearly basis. Poland is especially supportive of the so-called Follow-the-Money approach to combat commercial scale IP infringements.

Chairman,

Let me now say a few words on Poland's national IP activities.

While fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland regularly introduces numerous improvements for speeding up and streamlining procedures connected with proceedings on the grant of exclusive rights. In 2016 one of the most significant changes in that respect was the introduction of a new procedure for trademark registration, namely the opposition system, which contributed, among other things, to a considerable shortening of the waiting time for a decision on the grant of the right of protection.

With effect from 6 January this year Poland joined the Global Patent Prosecution Highway Program, thus providing applicants from Poland and partner countries one other option of accelerating procedure for the grant of a patent.

During the previous year the Patent Office has continued to focus on promoting industrial property by organizing a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and trainings addressed to various institutions and professions. Some of them were organized in cooperation and with the participation of the representatives of WIPO, such as the annual International Krakow Symposium or workshops on innovation in the health sector as part of the research project "Intellectual Property and Socio-Economic Development".

The Office was also undertaking educational activities targeting among others entrepreneurs, economists, lawyers, scientists, judges. Lectures, workshops and panel discussions were devoted to the latest issues connected with industrial property protection in various aspects and each time attracted a big audience.

The initiatives of the Patent Office cover also technology transfer issues. International symposia held annually by the Office which deal with those issues, enable exchange of experiences with national and foreign partners on various aspects of technology transfer from scientific centres to business and industry.

Chairman, last but for sure not least: our thanks go to WIPO, the Director General and all its' staff – but in particular to the Department for Transition and Developed Countries – for an outstanding cooperation and assistance delivered to Poland – contributing to the promotion of intellectual property rights in Poland.