

**51st SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
WIPO**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE CEBS GROUP
AGENDA ITEM 5**

AS DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

Madam Chair,
Director General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Central European and Baltic States Poland would like to congratulate you Madam Ambassador on your election as Chair of the General Assembly, as well as your two Vice-Chairs. Our special thanks go to Ambassador Zvekic for his stewardship and hard work. We thank the Vice-Chairs, as well. Since we have an extremely full agenda for these Assemblies with several items that require important decisions from the members, we look forward to your able leadership in our discussions to lead us towards fruitful outcomes.

The CEBS Group would also like to take this opportunity to thank the DG and the entirety of the WIPO Secretariat for their hard work over the last year. The preparation for the Assemblies has been thorough and the documents before us are as usual comprehensive which will certainly facilitate our deliberations.

After the successful conclusions of the Beijing Treaty, WIPO continued on the winning track with the success of the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh that resulted in the Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities. Madam Chair, our Group is hopeful that the constructiveness that led to these important results will continue in 2014, and WIPO members will demonstrate again that multilateral agreements are still possible. Here we would like take the opportunity to

express once again our gratitude and warm thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco for their generosity and hospitality that contributed greatly to the success of the Marrakesh Treaty.

The CEBS Group attaches great importance to the creation and maintenance of a balanced and effective international IP system, and considers IP as an important tool for sustainable growth and wealth creation. WIPO is a crucial player in creating a secure environment for investment in scientific and industrial research and in fostering innovative products and services. For these reasons, we reiterate our support for WIPO in its mission to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system.

We would like to assure Member States and WIPO of our continuing support for the pursuance of WIPO's global goals and look forward to making progress on all of the issues on its agenda.

The CEBS supports the motion, that assistance granted by WIPO, through its various programs is to be tailored to the specific needs of the countries concerned, which are at different levels of economic development and with different IP needs. Following the economic and financial crisis, many countries in the CEBS region considered the role of innovation and IP key to their recovery. This led to a wider awareness and better understanding of a more systematic and long-term approach to IP and innovation. This is why the demand for developing national IP strategies and plans will continue to grow in the upcoming biennium.

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises are an essential part of a national innovation system and in these difficult times economic development depends growingly upon them. Many SMEs in our region are beginning to offer products and provide services in IP intensive industries. Hence, there is a need to further enhance their understanding of IP, including on how to integrate IP into their innovation policies, how to better use the innovation system and how to benefit from WIPO services.

For all these reasons we value particularly the normative initiatives in the framework of WIPO that facilitates business and creates new opportunities for SMEs. This is certainly the case in relation to the development of simplified and harmonized procedures for industrial design law in the framework of the SCT. We deem important to highlight once again that industrial designs are of rapidly growing economic importance and represent a form of protection accessible to all countries regardless of their economic status. Moreover as demonstrated by the study carried out by the international Bureau the adoption of the DLT should benefit countries at each stage of economic development.

After the successful 29th session of the SCT the CEBS Group is convinced that the draft Treaty text is now mature. We welcome as well the constructive engagement and advancement of the discussions concerning technical assistance. We are of the view that all the elements are now on the table to take the decision to convene the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Treaty in 2014, and we would like to urge members not to let this important opportunity elude us. We would also like to strongly welcome the offer of the Russian Federation to host the Diplomatic Conference.

Several countries in our Region attach great importance to the global protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin. Therefore we welcome that the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System reached consensus on recommending that the Lisbon Union Assembly approve at its 2013 session the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015.

We turn now to the area of copyright where in the past years we saw two major Treaties concluded, and where our Group hopes even more can be achieved. The CEBS Group considers that future work of the SCCR should primarily be focused on working out the proposal for the treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations with the objective of reaching a decision to convene a diplomatic conference in this regard in the nearest future. Ensuring adequate protection at the international level for broadcasting organizations is highly needed and an up-dating for the 21st century is long overdue.

The CEBS Group equally places great value to the work on building respect for IP and looks forward to intensify the work of WIPO in this regard especially in the Advisory Committee on Enforcement. There is an urgent need to support the enforcement of intellectual property rights through measures, including better statistics and information about the scope, scale, and impact of counterfeiting and piracy. Improving cooperation through more effective cross border exchanges of information, sharing best practices in enforcement, and raising public awareness about the growing risks related to those phenomena are all important elements of this undertaking. We believe that there is a strong need to develop the awareness part of the ACE mandate with concrete proposals of awareness raising activities, that includes engaging in special media campaigns and education curricula activities.

Madam Chair - the CEBS Group recognizes the importance of the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and welcomes the progress made since the last Assemblies in this Committee. Our Group remains willing to work constructively towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome and is ready to agree on a reasonable and pragmatic work program for the next two years.

Finally Madam Chair the CEBS Group looks forward with great interest to further discussing the Program and Budget for 2014/2015. We are open to a fair exchange of views on all the outstanding topics and willing to reach a solution acceptable and approved by all parties involved. The goal of our Group is to have the Assemblies approve the budget for the biennium 2014/15.

The CEBS Group is convinced that we can achieve positive and balanced results concerning all issues during these Assemblies and call upon all WIPO Member States to approach this meeting with a similar positive attitude.

Thank you Madam Chair