

Statement by the Czech delegation
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,
22 September to 30 October, 2014

Madam Chair,

The Czech delegation, speaking in its national capacity, would like to associate itself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States. We would like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work in the preparation of this Assembly, for comprehensive documents. We are also very pleased to be here in this beautiful new conference hall.

The Czech Republic pays great attention to the role of intellectual property for innovations and creativity, competitiveness, economic growth and social development. We are aware of the needs of the digital and knowledge based society. We therefore welcome and support WIPO's efforts towards further improvement of the international normative framework for intellectual property in accordance with technological and economic development in order to respond to new, global challenges.

Let us highlight that we remain committed to the work of all WIPO Committees and Working Groups. At the same time we would like to see improvement of their efficiency. We particularly appreciate the work done by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) in the field of industrial designs and we fully support convening a diplomatic conference for adoption of Design Law Treaty in 2015. We are convinced that texts elaborated by this Committee are sufficiently, technically mature for such decision.

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications. We continue to support the work of the Lisbon Union Working Group on the development of the Lisbon System, to extend and make this international registration system more attractive. The decision of the Lisbon Union Assembly on convening a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015, already taken, is highly welcomed. Moreover, the Czech delegation believes that the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents will enable discussion on technical issues concerning patent law with a view to patent harmonization.

We also pay our great attention to WIPO global databases as resources of valuable technological, patent and other IP information and various knowledge services. We support further development of technical IP infrastructure enabling sharing and access to this information for use.

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of the work done by the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) and especially supports a progress made

towards long awaited international treaty for protection of the broadcasters' rights. We believe that finalizing of this treaty should be the main priority of this committee in the nearest future. Ensuring adequate protection at the international level for broadcasting organizations is highly needed and an updating for the 21st century is long overdue.

As to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, the Czech delegation fully shares the view that further discussion on the effective protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore is necessary and believes that a new work program for the IGC for next year will be realistic.

The Czech delegation highlights activities of the Advisory Committee for Enforcement for building better understanding of the importance of effective IPRs enforcement system and for raising public awareness in this area.

We remain committed to the work of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property.

Finally, the Czech delegation would like to express its continuing support for WIPO's activities related to the improvement of the WIPO global PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems providing significant global IPRs services to applicants and right holders.

As to the WIPO External Offices, the Czech delegation is of the opinion that the proposed Guiding Principles should be finalized and adopted as soon as possible.

In conclusion, let us briefly inform you that this year the Czech Industrial Property Office celebrates the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Patent Office on the territory of the Czech Republic. To mark this anniversary we organized, in cooperation with WIPO, the International Conference on "Industrial Property Protection in Europe", which took place in Prague just two weeks ago, in the presence of the Director General of WIPO, the Czech Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Industry and Trade, Presidents of the EPO, OHIM, many IP Offices from various regions, including Asia, and many representatives from business, industry, technology, research and academia. We would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation and many thanks to the Director General for his support and participation in this conference. The conference was highly welcomed and appreciated by all foreign and local participants, users of the intellectual property protection system.

We wish to the Director General success in his forthcoming second mandate. We wish success to his new senior management team.

The Czech Republic looks forward to future cooperation with WIPO.

Thank you.