

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

MONTENEGRO

Distinguished Chairperson,

I wish to greet You on behalf of the Delegation of Montenegro and the Government of Montenegro, Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro and myself, and to congratulate sincerely to the WIPO Director General, and also to the WIPO, for re-election of Dr Francis Gurry for the position of the WIPO Director General. Montenegro, as an independent state, was entitled to participate in the work of the WIPO General Assembly in 2008, when the distinguished Dr Gurry was elected as Director General for the first time. We wish Dr Gurry successful conduct of WIPO, as throughout his first mandate, whereas Montenegro expect to continue excellent cooperation with WIPO , of which we are proud.

On behalf of the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro (IPOM), I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Lysbon Department, as well as to the WIPO TDC (Department for Transition and Developed Countries), for successful organization and coordination with the IPOM of the Regional Conference on Protection of Geographical Indications, which was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, 17 – 18 July 2014. Conference was evaluated by participants as successfully organized, covering actual issues and trends, while the experts engaged by the WIPO, selected on the basis of proposal from the IPOM, were of the highest level, thus contributing to professional credibility of the Conference.

Last year was marked by a number of important IPR events. I wish to list the crucial ones, as follows:

Montenegro opened negotiations in the Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property Rights for the EU accession at the Inter-Government Conference held in Brussels, on 31 March 2014. It was underlined during the Conference that the further harmonisation with the *acquis communautaire* of the EU and the enforcement of the rules and regulations in the IPR area contribute substantially to further enhancement of technological, scientific, cultural and entire social development in Montenegro. Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro has a key role in the negotiations with the EU in the IPR area.

Memorandum of Understanding between the IPOM and the OHIM is a platform for strengthening of cooperation between the two Offices. The MoU was signed on 20 February 2014. The MoU provides for improved capacity of the IPOM staff and IT infrastructure through exchange of experience and practice, various trainings, exchange of data about trademarks and designs and their availability in data bases TMView and DesignView.

Delegation of the EU to Montenegro, on 29 April 2014, announced start of the Twinning Light project "Enhancing the Protection of the Intellectual Property Rights in Montenegro", where Montenegro is a main beneficiary. The project lasts eight (8) months, comprising components: institutional building, harmonization of the IP legislation, building capacity and awareness raising.

We are pleased to inform You that the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro has prolonged the Bilateral Cooperation Plan with the European Patent Office (EPO) for the period 2014 – 2015. This Plan provides for further improvement of the institutional framework of the IPOM (through seminars and trainings tailored for the IPOM staff), modernization of the IT patent system and also provides support in drafting IP legislation for patents, all in the aim to prepare Montenegro to accede to the European Patent Convention (EPC).

In addition, in the period 2013/2014, WIPO provided technical and financial support for participation of the representatives of the IPOM, Ministry of Economy, enforcement authorities and courts at seminars, study visit to the selected IP Office, course of the WIPO Academy, and also attendance at the Standing Committee on Patents, etc.

Madam Chair,

Let me conclude our Statement and express gratitude to the WIPO Director General, Dr Francis Gurry, for excellent and efficient organization of the General Assembly, and also to the WIPO Secretariat for their contribution and efforts made in preparation of relevant documents and logistic support.

I wish us all successful work.

Thank you for your attention!

Novak Adžić

Director

Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro

