

Assemblies of the Member States of the WIPO

Geneva, September 22 to 30, 2014

Delegation of the Slovak Republic

General Statement (item 5)

Madam Chair, respected Director General, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Slovak delegation let me congratulate you, madam Chair, to your presidency of these Assemblies as well as let me to congratulate to Mr Gurry to his re-election. We are very pleased to see Mr Gurry in the lead for another period and would like to assure him of our full support. We also would like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for very valuable work in preparing these Assemblies and effort made during the year.

Now turning to the business issues, the Slovak Republic associates with the statement made by Czech Republic on behalf of CEBS Group, with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union, statement made by Hungary and Poland too. We would like to express our full support as well as our readiness to be assisting you, madam Chair, to make these Assemblies efficient and fruitful.

We believe that this session shall decide on convening a Diplomatic conference for adoption of Design Law Treaty in 2015. This treaty would simplify the formalities related to obtaining design protection and improve access to design protection around the world. Slovak delegation welcomes further progress made by the Lisbon Union Working Group and decision of the Lisbon Union Assembly on convening a Diplomatic Conference in 2015. The revised Lisbon System covering also geographical indications will be attractive for many countries from different regions as well as for various intergovernmental organizations. Bearing in mind significant benefits for users we support the development of the PCT system in order to be well-balanced and open for new regional PCT Authorities guaranteeing the quality and accessibility of services.

Madam Chair, the IP is becoming more recognized in our country step by step each year thanks to the full and very active engagement of Slovak IP Office and assistance by our international partners. Declaring the great importance attached to the co-operation with WIPO, let me, Madam Chair, express my special thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for continuing support and the assistance provided for the Slovak IP Office during the previous period. We regret that the visit of Director General planned for February 2014 was cancelled; however, we believe that after his re-election we will be honored by his visit to the Slovak Republic in the near future. It is a great opportunity to affirm and further enhance our mutually supportive cooperation and relations, and to raise the awareness of our Government about the importance of the intellectual property to a modern society and the leading role of the World Intellectual Property Organization in this system.

The Slovak IP Office has been actively engaged in numerous national or inter-regional activities relating to IP education and awareness events being organized together with WIPO to build adequate recognition of the role of Intellectual Property for national economical, social and cultural development within the high-level policy-makers, business and academia. This year it was the inter-

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regional meeting „Economics Aspects of IPR“ organized by WIPO, Slovak IP Office, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic and University of Economics on May 6, 2014 in Bratislava. In the pipeline are still two big events - the Regional meeting “Recent Intellectual Property Challenges“ being organized by WIPO and Slovak IP Office on October 28 – 29, 2014 in Banská Bystrica and the Workshop “Intellectual Property Policies in Universities and Research Institutions“ being organized by WIPO, Slovak IP Office and Trnava University in Trnava on November 17, 2014.

This year the Slovak IP Office enhanced the co-operation with the Customs Administration of the Slovak Republic and on September 17, 2014 organized tailored made workshop on the work of the EU Observatory and the new EDB database of the OHIM. The Office also continues in intensive co-operation with the Judicial Academy in Pezinok and with the European Law Students´ Association (ELSA). In addition, our experts have made a lot of lectures on various IP topics for business and academia.

In 2014 the Slovak IP Office continues successfully with implementation of the project of education about intellectual property for pupils of elementary and secondary schools. The project was launched in 2012 with the aim to introduce the IP minimum into the school curricula. Regarding this, the Slovak IP office is fully engaged in preparing the negotiations with the Ministry of Education on the possibilities of making it happen.

In May 2014 the Slovak IP Office started a new information campaign and informs clients about fraudulent invoices. With first official communication after filing application as well as with issued certificate of protection the Slovak IP Office sends to clients an information leaflet warning them of fraudulent invoices. Public warning has been published also on the Slovak IP Office website and this issue is being voiced at all IP events organized by our office. Together with our national and international partners, especially WIPO, we keep on our effort to identify and apply the effective legal and non-legal measures against specific entities.

During this year the Slovak IP Office continues in the campaign for rising public awareness on IP and enforcement. We continue in organizing IP forums and discussions during which the printed marketing materials to promote the campaign are distributed. To increase the perception and knowledge about IP the Slovak IP Office has started to work on mobile exhibition “At Home with Invention“. In this respect let me thank the Director General Gurry for his interest and continuous support as well as to Deputy-Director General Wichard for his support and very valuable know-how of the WIPO Building Respect for IP Division. At the same time let me also express our gratitude for the fruitful cooperation with the WIPO Department for Transition and Developed Countries.

Last but not least, regarding copyrights issues we are pleased to inform you that we have improved our national legislative framework this year and we are about to adopt the new Copyright Act next year.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, we would like to thank to the outgoing management team for their work done for the benefit of the IP world and its users, congratulate and wish the new management team all the success to the future endeavors and wish us all to achieve positive and balanced results concerning all issues during these Assemblies.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.