

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for all their preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

Companies and public research institutions around the world are confronted with significant economic and financial challenges. They also face and participate in an ever-increasing globalization in their method of working and competing.

Against this background Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary element in fostering economic, social and cultural development. WIPO plays a key role as this organization is established to promote the protection of IPR globally through cooperation between states as prescribed in article 3 of the WIPO Convention.

In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO deliver cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark acknowledges WIPO's efforts for improving the global IP systems PCT, Madrid and Hague and the new IT services for users. We welcome the amendments to benefit users, and we likewise congratulate WIPO for increasing efficiency.

Normative work and method of working

Denmark congratulates the DG and WIPO on the adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon agreement.

In relation to the Design Law Formality Treaty it is disappointing that the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications were unable to provide any progress. The work achieved is in our view sufficient mature for a Diplomatic Conference.

With regards to the work of the committees let us share a few points of observation and consideration:

National offices pay constantly attention on performance and tangible results. Cost-benefit analyses are carried out on a regular basis for all tasks. This delegation note modest progress in the work of the standing committees and regret the limited outcome on substantive issues.

We believe it is time to evaluate and reconsider the whole concept of working methods at WIPO. Is it effective and timely to have standing committees? Should we move toward more ad hoc working committees at technical expert levels? We believe an important element would be to separate political issues from the technical expert level. By addressing the relevant issues at the relevant level we foresee more efficient meetings and results for the benefit of all stakeholders.

We welcome the effort of the Secretariat in implementing the Development Agenda (DA). WIPO has an important role to play in bringing the issue of IP to the attention of stakeholders in development work.

The inclusion of the DA recommendations must be seen in conjunction with the overall goal of WIPO as stated in the WIPO Convention, “to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through co-operation among states”.

Implementation of the DA recommendations shall be done as an integral part of efforts promoting the overall goal of WIPO.

National Danish Highlights on IP

We would like to briefly inform about a few IP highlights in Denmark:

In order to strengthen the enforcement of industrial property rights, the Danish Parliament has recently adopted a bill, which determines that an Enforcement Unit shall be established at the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO).

The Enforcement Unit shall function as a focal contact point for businesses, consumers and public authorities. Here, these users can receive guidance in concrete cases of infringement of industrial property rights as well as general information and guidance on infringement and enforcement issues.

The Enforcement Unit will further assist the police and prosecutors in their efforts against IPR crimes, thereby strengthening the already close cooperation between the authorities.

The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search- and examination authority based on cooperation between Denmark, Norway and Iceland – continued to deliver high quality search reports to its appli-

cants in 2015. The Nordic Patent Institute is at the forefront of PCT authorities with regards to timeliness of delivery of search reports. Nordic Patent Institute continues to be an active member of various WIPO forums dealing with PCT and patents in general, in particular the Meeting of International Authorities (MIA) and the PCT Working Group.

Closing remarks

Denmark underlines its continuing commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies.

The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services is important for Danish users and we wish to ensure that WIPO strive to deliver world-class services.

Thank you!