

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Fifty-Fifth Series of Meetings

Geneva, October 5 to 14, 2015

Written General Statement (Agenda item 5) - Serbia

Mr. Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates,

The Serbian delegation is pleased to see you chairing the General Assembly. We are confident that through your leadership our discussions will be extremely productive during this meeting. We also thank the Secretariat for the presentation and comprehensiveness of the working documents. The delegation of Serbia would like to associate itself with the statement made by Romania on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

Emphasizing the ability and the role of intellectual property to foster creativity and innovation and by this contribute to economic, cultural and social development of all the countries, we would like to note the WIPO's activities and positive achievements in the previous period, particularly on strengthening the global system of IP protection and in providing the international forum for an in-depth dialogue regarding the development in the various fields of IP system.

Serbia considers WIPO's norm setting role to be a very important one, and therefore we are very pleased to see the progress made this year with a successful outcome of the diplomatic conference held in May 2015, which resulted in the adoption of the Geneva act of the Lisbon Agreement.

The most important activity for the Republic of Serbia in the previous year was the opening of the negotiation for the membership with EU. The Intellectual Property Rights were subject of the screening process conducted by EC in October and November 2014. We are still awaiting for the EC Screening report which is a crucial milestone in this process, and at the same time we are working on further legal alignment with EU legislation.

We have continued the efforts in strengthening of the IPR enforcement in Serbia by setting up the Governmental Coordination body on IPR enforcement. The main focus of the Body is to foster specific enforcement areas, in particular, the public awareness, data exchange, cooperation with right holders, as well as new National Strategy of IP development in Serbia which is still under preparation.

In this context Serbia would like to emphasize the need for modernization of WIPO's approach on cooperation with the countries such as Serbia which are in the process of final transition, but still have certain problems and gaps in achieving a fully developed system of IP protection. In resolving this problem, with the aim to achieve the highest standards in IP protection, current

universal, model of cooperation might not be the best choice. This particularly is in relation to the IT development and the technology/innovation transfer field.

We would like to express our gratitude to WIPO, since in last decade the Serbian IPO has introduced advanced IT solutions, by successfully implementing and improving the program WIPO IPAS. In the last year, our IT experts have designed and developed the electronic filing system, which is highly compatible with IPAS environment and currently we are finalizing the implementation of this new e-filing system. We are willing to continue and intensify the cooperation with WIPO, in order to assist and support WIPO in testing and developing other available software tools in the other national IP offices.

In addition, we would like to stress out the main activities realized in the previous period. The IP marketing and valuation workshop which is a follow up event, will be held in Belgrade in mid-October, while the Study on The Economic Contribution of Copyright-based Industries in Serbia, which has been drafted based on the WIPO Guide on Surveying the Economic Contribution of the Copyright Based Industries last year, was promoted at the University of Belgrade at the Faculty of Law on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015. In 2014, the post-implementation evaluation of the national IP strategy in Serbia, in order to assess the outcomes of implementation of the IP strategy, has been conducted, while the Study on Integrating Intellectual Property into Innovation Policy Formulation in Serbia was published.

Finally, I would like to highlight that the Republic of Serbia will continue to cooperate constructively with WIPO and its member-states in resolving all challenging IP issues.