

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings
Geneva, October 3 to 11, 2016

Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Delegation of Croatia notes with appreciation WIPO's efforts and activities in strengthening the global system of intellectual property legal protection and in providing the forum for an in-depth dialog regarding the development of various fields of intellectual property system. This delegation welcomes significant efforts the WIPO is undertaking in providing effective functioning of the international IP registration and filing systems operated by the International Bureau with the continuously growing numbers of filings. We thank the Bureau for the comprehensive and valuable work in the preparation of this General Assembly and other meetings throughout the year.

Croatia follows with great attention the discussions held in various WIPO Committees and acknowledges the progress made within them during the last year. However, we regret that still no consensus has been reached in the SCT on the adoption of a formal treaty on industrial designs from which the users from all the Member States, regardless of their level of development, would undoubtedly benefit. We therefore hope that a satisfactory solution shall be found at this General Assembly in the spirit of a constructive approach by all delegations. Furthermore, in relation to the work of the SCCR, we support the discussions on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organisations which should provide broadcasting organisations with adequate and effective protection in today's technologically changing world.

Regarding the program and budgetary issues, we acknowledge achievements in implementing the WIPO's program in the previous biennium as indicated in the Performance Report 2014/15 and encourage further refining of the performance measurement methodology for it to appropriately reflect the achievements that could be undoubtedly attributed to the WIPO activities. We note with satisfaction current sound budgetary situation and support cautious medium-term estimations of income based on the future PCT demand.

Our delegation highly values trainings and education on different aspects of the intellectual property system delivered to general public and professionals and recognizes importance of appropriate programs and activities of the WIPO Academy. However, we are concerned with a moderate pace of the reform process to reposition the Academy as the organization-wide vehicle for professional training and capacity building, initiated in the biennium 2014/1, and we support expediting this process. We are glad to share with this forum that at the national level the Academy of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia is active in developing and offering training for various user groups, based on its own initiatives and resources or in collaboration with other organizations. We particularly appreciate WIPO's support and cooperation in the organization of the two-week Summer School on Intellectual Property held in Zagreb in June this year. That has been an excellent opportunity for senior students and young professionals to broaden their IP knowledge and exchange views on IP systems across the world. In the same vein, we express our appreciation for cooperation with the WIPO Academy in successful establishing a regular

distance learning program – a General Intellectual Property Course in Croatian (DL-101 HR) as a localized version of the respective most popular WIPO's general distance learning program. Being organized regularly twice a year since the beginning of 2014, this program provides an excellent opportunity for public education in the field of intellectual property, not only in Croatia but also in the neighbouring countries, while making use of national expertise.

We would like to emphasize that our country continues to put great efforts in the fight against the growing problem of counterfeiting and piracy which tends to threaten economy, employment and consumer security particularly in the digital environment. Joint activities are continuously undertaken by enforcement bodies and other stakeholders in Croatia on raising public awareness regarding the recognition of and respect for intellectual property rights, marking increasing public interest in this topic. In 2016, we have started an ongoing national campaign on risks related to the online purchase of counterfeit and pirated goods which aims to raise citizens' awareness of counterfeit and pirated goods that are sold online as originals, acquaint citizens with legal, financial and health risks and possible damaging consequences of such a purchase and inform them about protection against purchases of such goods.

Finally, we would like to mention that this year Croatia is celebrating 25th anniversary of its independence. Although the tradition of an established intellectual property system at the territory of nowadays Croatia originates from the end of the 19th century, at the end of this year we will be marking 25th anniversary of the establishment of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia as the national intellectual property office of Croatia as an independent state. At this occasion we would like to express our appreciation to the WIPO for its continuous capacity building support and cooperation that accompanied our journey from establishing the national Office from scratch to a fully-fledged modern Office entirely integrated in the global intellectual property system.

As a final point, the Delegation of Croatia underlines its continuing commitment to contributing in a positive, constructive and pragmatic manner to the discussions held in WIPO. We would like to express our appreciation to all the Member States for their cooperation, and wish to all the Members States fruitful deliberations and a successful 56th series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

(Zagreb, September 25, 2016)