

57th WIPO General Assemblies, October 2017– Country Statement – Romania

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of Romania, I would like to wish you, as well as your Vice-Chairs and the other officers, a most successful session.

Romania aligns itself to the statement delivered (earlier today) on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and to the statement presented by the Republic of Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group, and would like to reaffirm its commitment to the development of the intellectual property system and to the advancing of the WIPO agenda, in all of its aspects.

Romania would also like to particularly thank the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the staff of WIPO, for their endless efforts to the benefit of the Organization, as well as for the qualitative documents prepared for these series of WIPO Assemblies.

We are honored by the Director General's visit to Romania in October last year, which occasioned high-level meetings and important discussions at various relevant institutions. Since the Government of Romania is committed to strengthening Romania's innovation capacity and competitiveness, we want a solid and rich cooperation with WIPO, to the benefit of both sides.

Mr. Chairman,

As we stated before, Romania attaches great importance to the works of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographic Indications (SCT) and hopes that a consensual decision will be reached for holding a Diplomatic Conference, with a view to adopting a Treaty in the field of industrial designs. Both applicants and national IP offices will profit from simplification and harmonization of the registration formalities for industrial designs.

In what concerns the activity of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), Romania would like to warmly thank all WIPO member states for their cooperation and support provided to the Romanian chairmanship of the SCP. Moreover, this delegation appreciates the agreement reached on the future work,

during the SCP's 25th session. SCP is the only international forum to deal with issues regarding patents and, therefore, Romania strongly supports the progress of its works.

With regard to the activity of the Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, Romania recognizes the importance of the genetic resources, the traditional knowledge and of the traditional cultural expressions. Moreover, we consider that the political objective should be to increase the transparency of the patent system and for this goal, the request of disclosure of the origin or genetic source could be accepted (with the mention that the request of disclosure should be limited only to patents).

Romania particularly appreciates the activity of the PCT Working Group and is in favor of the PCT fees reduction aimed at encouraging the filing of international applications by the Universities and Research Institutes from developing countries funded by public funds. This is in line with the policy of the Romanian Government supporting innovation and technology transfer.

As regards the Standing Committee for Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), convening a Diplomatic Conference on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, which would be fully adapted to the technological realities of the 21st century, is of great interest to us. Likewise, we encourage the exchange of best practices on limitations and exceptions included on SCCR agenda and we reaffirm our openness for exploring new topics.

Romania also closely follows the debates within the Advisory Committee on IP Enforcement (ACE) and reinstates its commitment to continuing the fight against the phenomena of counterfeiting and piracy.

Mr. Chairman,

As it is well known, Romania submitted a proposal for hosting a sub-regional WIPO External Office (EO), in Bucharest. This proposal is supported by a significant number of member states from our region. We strongly believe that a WIPO equitable network for EO locations needs to include offices in all geographical regions, including the Central-European and Baltic States (CEBS) region, as stated in the Guiding Principles, agreed by all Member States in 2015.

In our opinion, the establishment of a WIPO External Office in Bucharest follows the above mentioned principle and will bring added value to the Organization. Furthermore, it would give a boost to the development of the IP system in the sub-region and to the promotion of WIPO services, as well as to the economic, social and cultural development of the interested countries, taking into account the strong connection between IP and development. Moreover, I am confident that the Bucharest Office will foster the Organization's responsiveness to the specific needs of the region, and, last but not least, will promote its values and services. Romania would also like to convey our deep thanks to all the countries that expressed support for our proposal.

In conclusion, Romania strongly hopes in a successful meeting that will allow WIPO and its member states to further the promotion of the intellectual property system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.