

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO 59th Series of Meetings

Geneva September 30 to October 9, 2019

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellency Director General,

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Croatia on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the excellent results achieved since the previous general assembly meeting and for the excellent organization of this meeting.

While we express satisfaction for the numerous achievements outlined in the Program Performance Report, we support the draft Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium.

Albania is using WIPO tools on the automation process since 2006, and we have continuously implemented the new tools and revisions provided by WIPO. Currently, we have fully automated the tool for examination procedures as well as a fully operational WIPO EDMS tool for the dossier digitalization.

Albania remains focused on implementing the National Strategy on Intellectual Property (2016-2020). The General Directorate of Industrial Property, in the role of the Technical Secretariat, has collected data from the Institutions

involved in the Strategy and has compiled the matrix of achievements to date for the indicators foreseen to be realized. Various activities are performed under the objectives foreseen in the national strategy. We emphasise that GDIP's services are moving towards contemporary standards to ensure a level of protection similar with that of the European Union countries.

The quality of services in this area has also increased through the promotion and coordination ensured by GDIP staff with activities in various businesses, in technical and scientific information centres, through seminars and lectures in public and private universities, high schools, elementary schools, as well as for interest groups. As per this year an important achievement was the approval of the regulations on implementation of the Law Nr. 9947 date 07.07.2008", "On Industrial Property", as amended.

Albania has already deposited its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications ("Geneva Act") by Ambassador Ms. Ravesa Lleshi, Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations in Geneva.

Obviously, the membership of the Republic of Albania to the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act facilitates the registration of Albanian products in foreign countries, as well as introduction of foreign products in the Albanian market.

Another important achievement was the drafting amendments to Law 9947 "On Industrial Property" as amended, which we aim its alignment with European Trade Secret Directive, up to the end of the current year.

Another important pillar and a challenge, as well, is the raising awareness for the young generation in our country regarding the protection of the IP rights. Several activities on promotion and trainings in respect of rights are have been undertaken. Therefore, the GDIP office has organised a national competition held with high school students of Tirana, where it was noticed a great interest and active participation of young generations to learn about the IP field. Also, the competitions taking place in pre-university education schools have now become an annual activity.

Moreover, one important event was the organization of the National Conference in the framework of World IP Day on April 26th 2019 with the slogan "IP and Sports - reach for gold", promoted also through a media campaign. Also, we are looking forward to deepening our cooperation with WIPO, in terms of capacity

building and technical assistance in the field, as well as in any other cooperation regarding the field of intellectual property rights.

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm our commitment on further developing the intellectual property system in Albania based in a solid collaboration with WIPO.

Thank you.