

(ii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents
(doc. WO/GA/55/2)

Madam Chair,

1. The CEBS Group welcomes the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents and would like to thank the Chair of the SCP 33 Mr. Leopoldo Soriano (Spain) and his Vice-Chairs. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for their work over the past year including the preparation for the 63rd series of Assemblies.
2. The CEBS Group notes that Standing Committee on the Law of Patents met only once during last year, but the Member States had the opportunity to resume discussions on the subject matters and to provide the exchange of experiences and share best practices within all the five areas of its agenda (*exceptions and limitations; quality of patents and opposition systems; patents and health; the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors; transfer of technology*). Our Group considers SCP as a main platform to discuss both current trends and future developments of the patent system.
3. As in the past, the quality of patents, as well as the confidentiality of communications between clients and their attorneys/patent advisors, remain the main focus of CEBS interest. We support the enhancement of cooperation among the Member States, as we believe that the exchange of knowledge and work-sharing can further improve patent grant processes. In this regard, it is of our special interest to share experiences and exchange information on the use of artificial intelligence for the patentability of inventions and in order to examine patent applications. High-quality patents are essential to ensure that the patent system incentivizes innovation, facilitates knowledge transfer, and rewards new developments. A well-functioning patent system is a priority and facilitates the socio-economic development of the countries and regions.
4. Furthermore, we believe that the work of this committee enhances the international cooperation and enables to find the solutions for cross-border challenges, including cross-border aspects of confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors.
5. On exceptions and limitations, we are of the view that future discussions are needed as the proper balance between the interests of society or public in general and on the other hand of patent rightholders should be achieved.
6. Together with the mentioned priorities of our Group, the issue of Patents & Health is at the centre of our attention too. Effective and timely measures as the response to the pandemic, including licensing of patents, are essential for ensuring global access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies. We look forward to hear from representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) about patent-related activities with respect to COVID-19 pandemic in the context of the trilateral cooperation. At the same time, we would welcome the updates of documents covering the period of Covid-19 pandemic.

7. The CEBS Group is pleased to note that agreement on the balanced future work for the next session was reached and that the work of the next SCP will be confined to fact-finding accompanied by organization of interesting sharing sessions.
8. Finally, we hope that SCP will be able to find more synergies and common lines by building upon the existing positions of Member States and to move closer to discussions about harmonization of substantive patent law in the near future. Let me reassure you, Madam Chair, once more of the constructive engagement and support of CEBS Group in the work of this Committee.
9. Thank you.