

AGENDA ITEM 13(iii)
REPORTS FROM WIPO COMMITTEES
CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND BALTIC STATES GROUP (CEBS)

WO/GA/56/8 - SCT

Madam Chair,

1. The CEBS Group takes note of the report of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications and would like to thank the Acting Vice-Chair of this Committee, Mr. Simion Levitch, for his able guidance of the work of SCT 46. Our thanks also go to the Secretariat for efforts invested in preparing SCT session, as well as to the Member States who provided important inputs on different topics, including countries from the CEBS Group.
2. We appreciate the discussions held at the last SCT session concerning the protection of country names and geographical names, and we recognize that the proposals gained cross-regional support from Member States. We look forward to the revision and possible merging of relevant documents and to further discuss this issue in the Committee.
3. As regards the topic of industrial designs, we are well of the progress made during last sessions, in particular with a view of achieving concrete results during the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT), agreed and scheduled for 2024. We are ready to actively engage further in the discussions planned for the Special Session of SCT in October 2023, aimed at narrowing the existing gaps to the sufficient level, which should allow to conclude the more than a decade work on the Design Law Treaty during the Diplomatic Conference in 2024.
4. The CEBS Group would like to express thanks to the WIPO Member States who have offered to host the Diplomatic Conference on DLT. We look forward to constructive discussions during the October preparatory Committee, the outcome of which should be the decision on the date and venue of the Diplomatic Conference on DLT as well as the Rules of Procedure relevant to conducting DLT Diplomatic Conference in 2024.

5. With respect to the topic of the industrial designs, we believe that the joint recommendations on Industrial Design Protection for Graphic User Interface can serve as a basis for the modern protection of designs in interested jurisdictions and for further identification of best practices. We noticed that the proposal for a joint recommendation has already gone through few revisions and in our view the time is ripe to finalize the discussion about it and find the agreement on how to close it. We hope for adoption of the joint recommendations by the Committee in the near future. At the same time, we take note of the new proposal from African Group concerning the study on GUIs.
6. The CEBS Group welcomed the creation of the Database Prototype on Temporary Protection of Industrial Designs based on the replies to the Questionnaire. We believe that the prototype will be soon extended to a complete database and we support the Secretariat in proceeding with the full development of this database in compliance with the necessary and estimated costs.
7. In relation to the geographical indications, we take the positive note of the valuable information provided during the information session on Geographical Indications at SCT 46. We look forward to the Information sessions to be held at the 47th SCT, which will focus on nation brands, in particular on the importance of nation brands in the design of public policies and strategies, impact of nation brands on socioeconomic development as well as current nation brand protection mechanisms.
8. Finally, we welcome the valuable exchanges among the delegations concerning different practices, efforts to clarify practical issues, as well as deliberations about various proposals, which are of important benefit to all Member States.

Thank you.