

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO Geneva, July 8-17, 2025

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

Ms. Maria Solis, Acting General Director of the IP Office

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Poland on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We extend our congratulations to the Director General and the WIPO staff for their outstanding achievements since the previous General Assembly Meeting. On behalf of the Republic of Albania, I would like to reaffirm our continuous support and solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

One of the most significant and historic moments of this year was the **Diplomatic Conference held in Riyadh from November 11-22, 2024**, where WIPO Member States adopted the **Industrial Design Law Treaty**. This treaty will simplify, accelerate, and reduce costs for designers worldwide to protect their designs at both the local and international levels—marking a major step forward in **empowering designers and fostering international design cooperation**.

Developments in Albania's Intellectual Property Sector (July 2024 – July 2025)

The other pillar of intellectual property, copyright, has undergone significant changes in recent years. One notable development, in the light of cooperation with WIPO, is the appointment of the Director of the Albanian Copyright Directorate as Vice Chair of the 17th session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE). This appointment underscores Albania's growing recognition in the international intellectual property arena and reflects its strengthened cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The Albanian copyright system is currently experiencing important transformations, evolving from a traditional model focused on the internal market to one that also encompasses the digital environment. Albania has recently completed amendments to its copyright law, aiming to regulate key stakeholders in the field while ensuring the protection of rights in the digital domain.

WIPO has played a pivotal role in this legislative process by providing legal assistance in the drafting of the amendments and supplements to the Albanian Copyright Law. This support has emphasized aspects of collective rights management and enforcement, aligning the legislation with international best practices.

An especially significant area of collaboration with WIPO has been the development of a methodology for setting tariffs and determining copyright fees in Albania. This project lays the groundwork for the formal approval of copyright tariffs within the Republic of Albania.

Albania is making dedicated efforts to align with the Marrakesh Treaty, with invaluable support and assistance provided by WIPO throughout the process.

Looking ahead, cooperation with WIPO in the field of copyright is set to continue, with initiatives focusing on copyright and innovation as well as educational effort aimed at knowledge transfer and capacity building in the sector

Legal Reforms and EU Alignment

In the field of **industrial property**, Albania has taken significant steps to **modernize its legal framework** in accordance with recommendations from the **European Commission (EC)** and in alignment with the **EU acquis**. As outlined in the **National Plan for European Integration (2023–2025)** and the **National Strategy for Intellectual Property (2022–2025)**, Albania has undertaken a **comprehensive legal reform**, including the drafting and adoption of separate **specialized laws** covering various IP objects such as **trademarks, patents and utility models, industrial designs, and geographical indications/appellations of origin**.

Two key draft laws—the **draft Law on Patents** and the **draft Law on Trademarks and Service Marks**—have been submitted to Parliament, with approval expected within 2025.

Technology Transfer and Innovation Support

On **November 5, 2024**, Tirana hosted a workshop on the establishment of a **Technology Transfer Office (TTO)** at one of Albania’s universities. This event was **jointly organized by WIPO and the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP)**, with WIPO experts emphasizing the **importance of TTOs**, investment strategies, and budget allocation. This initiative marks an important milestone in Albania’s long-standing cooperation with WIPO.

Academic Engagement and Public Awareness

On **October 24, 2024**, the General Directorate of Industrial Property hosted an **open lecture at the Faculty of Law**, focusing on industrial property rights. Delivered by **Prof. Dr. Alessandro Cogo of the University of Turin**, this event highlighted the **principles of international IP law and its impact on the global economy**. The lecture was held in coordination with Albania’s **Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva** and WIPO’s **Academy**.

Capacity Building for Trademark Examiners

Under WIPO’s **pilot project on the Needs Assessment, Network Building, and Capacity Building of Trademark Examiners**, Albania participated in a **two-day training program** focused on the **Nice Classification System**, which enhances international searches for goods and services. The event brought together **160 examiners from 17 CEBS states** to **exchange knowledge and strengthen professional capacities**.

Judicial Training on IP Law

In early **2025**, a specialized **online module on IP law for judges and prosecutors** provided by the WIPO Academy will be launched in collaboration with Albania’s **Magistrates’ School**, ensuring that legal professionals have access to structured training in industrial property law.

Entrepreneurship and IP Support for Startups

During **Global Entrepreneurship Week**, WIPO and the GDIP jointly organized a **one-day Intellectual Property (IP) Workshop for Startups** on **November 19, 2024, in Tirana**. This initiative provided **local startups with essential insights into IP management**, helping them enhance their business competitiveness and innovation potential.

Build Back Fund Initiative

Albania is participating in the **Build Back Fund**, an initiative designed to **recover economic losses post-COVID**. As part of this program, **two registered geographical indications** will receive **technical assistance, promotion, IP portfolio development, and participation in international fairs**—ensuring stronger brand protection and global recognition.

Conclusion

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the success of the WIPO Assemblies and express our **deep appreciation for WIPO's dedicated staff**. The Republic of Albania remains **fully committed** to advancing its intellectual property system through continued collaboration with WIPO and its member states.

Thank you!