

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour to address the 68th series of Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his reappointment as Director General. This renewed mandate reflects the confidence of Member States in his leadership and vision. Under his guidance, WIPO continues to promote a balanced, inclusive, and forward-looking global intellectual property system, supporting innovation and creativity worldwide.

This year has been particularly important for Cyprus, as we held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2026.

Under the motto “*An Autonomous Union. Open to the World*”, the Cyprus Presidency has worked to promote an IP framework that supports European innovation, competitiveness and creativity, while remaining open to global technological and digital developments. In this context, significant efforts were devoted, and successfully advanced discussions on the Patent Package towards progressing work aiming at a streamlined Supplementary Protection Certificate system for medicinal products and plant protection products.

The Cyprus Presidency emphasized on the significant added value of this reform for the EU, as it aims to simplify the current SPC framework, reduce administrative burden and market fragmentation as well as provide greater predictability and legal certainty for innovators and stakeholders. At the same time, this reform is intended to strengthen Europe’s attractiveness for research, innovation and investment in the pharmaceutical and plant protection sectors, which are essential for Europe’s competitiveness and strategic resilience.

Through intensive technical work and constructive exchanges with Member States and the Commission, a shared understanding was developed on key aspects of the file. While important work still lies ahead and a number of key issues remain to be resolved, we are optimistic that discussions held during our Presidency have laid a constructive foundation for the continuation of negotiations and for further advancing the SPC reform.

At the same time, the Cyprus Presidency continued discussions on copyright-related matters, recognising the importance of ensuring a balanced and future-proof framework that supports creators, right holders and creative industries in the evolving digital environment, while continuing to foster innovation and technological development.

In addition, the Cyprus Presidency coordinated closely with the Commission on the preparation and representation of the European Union's positions in meetings at the WIPO.

On this note, I would like to wish the incoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union every success.

Cyprus remains committed to multilateralism and to WIPO's central role in the global IP system. We will continue to support initiatives that foster innovation, empower creators and businesses, and ensure that the benefits of IP are shared broadly across society.

In closing, I once again congratulate Director General Tang and reaffirm Cyprus's full support for WIPO's mission.

Thank you.