

Coordination Meeting of IGOs Working in the Area of Intellectual Property (IP) Enforcement and Building Respect for IP

organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization

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PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT

prepared by the Secretariat

Welcome Address

The Coordination Meeting was opened with a welcome address and introduction by Mr. J. Todd Reves, Director, Building Respect for Intellectual Property (BRIP) Division, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO.

The Coordination Meeting continued with a stocktaking exercise, during which the participating IGOs shared information on their work in the areas of IP enforcement and building respect for IP, and a roundtable discussion of elements of common interest and potential collaborative actions. The following paragraphs summarize the information that the participating IGOs provided on activities and projects that had been concluded since the previous IGO coordination meeting.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Legislative Assistance:

- Four WIPO Member States requested and received legislative assistance on IP enforcement-related provisions of existing or draft laws since July 1, 2022.

Policy and Cooperation:

- The fifteenth session of the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) took place from August 31 to September 2, 2022. A total of 257 participants registered, representing 82 Member States, one Non-State Member (the European Union) and 24 Observers. In addition to a robust line-up of presentations (approximately 30), two WIPO-commissioned expert studies were published and discussed during ACE/15:
 - The Role of the Domain Name System and Its Operators in Online Copyright Enforcement by Dean S. Marks and Jan Bernd Nordemann.
 - Copyright Infringement in the Gaming Industry by Gaetano Dimita, Yin Harn Lee and Michaela MacDonald.
- The first Private Sector Associations Meeting on Intellectual Property Enforcement took place on October 3, 2022, with the aim of discussing the most pressing issues related to IP enforcement facing the private sector and identifying areas of common interest for future collaboration.
- The Building Respect for IP Quarterly Newsletter was re-launched on January 31, 2023. The latest edition was made available here, and the BRIP Division invited IGOs to subscribe here to receive future editions.
- Since May 2022, WIPO has organized monthly Respect for IP Webinars. Past episodes included themes such as trademark enforcement in the Metaverse, copyright infringement in the video game industry and civil remedies for trade secret misappropriation (recordings available here). To receive program updates, participants were invited to contact: respectforip-webinars@wipo.int.

Strategic Assistance and Awareness-Raising:

- Educational webpages on Respect for Copyright and Respect for Trademarks were launched in Brazilian Portuguese.
- Since 2019, WIPO has developed the IP and Citizen Journalism project with the purpose of introducing secondary school children to the principles of IP and building respect for IP. It was initially launched in South Africa, and in 2022 was implemented in Senegal.

Capacity-Building:

- Three national and two sub-regional capacity-building activities on IP enforcement and building respect for IP were conducted since July 1, 2022.

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

International IP Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC):

INTERPOL Capacity Building and Training Directorate provides member countries with access to the International IP Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC) to equip investigators and other IP enforcement professionals with skills and tools in the fight against transnational organized IP crime. In 2022, capacity building activities included:

- Continued delivery of online IIPCIC courses for all law enforcement authorities.
- Embedding of IIPCIC training modules into national police training curriculums in member countries.
- Training of IP Crime points of contact to facilitate INTERPOL-led operational activities.

- Global surveys and IIPCIC training needs assessment.
- Delivery of a monthly series of webinars and online events on relevant topics.
- Academic cooperation activities, for example, the Certificate in Intellectual Property Crime and Illicit Trade (CIPCIT).
- International & Regional Law Enforcement IP Crime Conferences.

IP Crime and Digital Piracy Unit:

- Webinar: “Digital piracy crime scene investigations”, delivered on May 24 and 25, 2022 and organized by the INTERPOL Stop Online Piracy (I-SOP) Project. Over 100 law enforcement participants from over 60 countries attended the Webinar each day.
- Practical Workshop on Intellectual Property Crime and Digital Piracy, organized in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Caribbean Community’s Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS). The activity took place from July 20 to 23, 2022 in Barbados. The sessions focused on supporting cases on IP crime, and on trademark and copyright infringements.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- On February 15, 2023, a webinar series on combating counterfeiting and stolen telecommunication/ICT devices and tampered software kicked off with a first episode on Existing Challenges and Solutions on Combating Counterfeiting of ICT Devices.
- In 2022, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference adopted Resolution 188, which invited member states to work in close collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on activities relating to combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices, including restricting the trading, export/import and circulation of these telecommunication/ICT devices internationally.

Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)

- Publication of the recent report jointly developed with the European Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Risks of Illicit Trade in Counterfeits to Small and Medium-Sized Firms. The report addresses the economic damage caused by illicit trade in counterfeit goods, including the reduction of sales and profits as well as innovation incentives in legitimate industries. The report also studies the damage caused by illicit trade in counterfeits to small and medium-sized enterprises and provides robust evidence on the magnitude, scope and trends of this risk to inform policy makers about the need to include anti-counterfeiting elements in policy packages designed to support SMEs. Findings indicate that counterfeiters use SMEs as a lucrative source of income, while, for SMEs, IP infringement often meant bankruptcy.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- An expert meeting on IP rights related issues and challenges for graduating least-developed countries was held on October 31, 2022, in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and with participation of WIPO, WTO and other key international partners.

- UNCTAD also commissioned a study to address these issues in a systematic way (to be completed in 2023).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Globally, the units of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Program (CCP) reported seizing 25,402,269 pieces of IP infringing goods in 2022.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, the CCP delivered several trainings related to IP enforcement with the participation of the private sector, including in February 2022 in the Dominican Republic, in May 2022 in Argentina and in July 2022 in Uruguay.
- In June 2022, the CCP brought together 31 officials from customs administrations in south-eastern Europe for a regional IP enforcement workshop. The focus of the workshop was on IP infringement (involving all industries) as well as on the supply chain of substandard and falsified medicines. Presentations by rights holders focused on how to distinguish genuine products from counterfeits and efforts to secure the legitimate supply chain. The workshop provided an excellent forum for sharing knowledge and information through the presentations and open discussions. It also provided right holders with direct insight into the situation in the field.
- In November 2022, the CCP hosted an IP workshop for Lebanese and Iraqi customs officers in Lebanon, in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Economy, WIPO and the Brand Protection Group (BPG). Members of the local CCP unit were able to establish communication channels with the BPG to exchange information and cooperate in order to protect IPR and to preserve the rights of the consumer against fraud and counterfeits.
- In August 2022, the Cross-Industry Working Group (CIWG) delivered a presentation at the CCP's annual meeting with a view to further enhancing the cooperation between CCP and brand owners within the CIWG.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- From September 28 to 30, 2022, UPU/WCO/INCB conducted a Joint Advanced Security Capacity Building Workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, to identify and mitigate illicit drugs in the postal supply chain. At least 87 participants consisting of representatives from regulators and designated operators attended, including four restricted unions¹ (the East African Communication Organization (EACO), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA) and West African Postal Conference (WAPCO)); one training school (*Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Postes d'Abidjan*); and three regional postal security managers (RPSMs) from Africa. The workshop was conducted with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Portuguese.
- From December 5 to 9, 2022, the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), the UPU and the INCB organized a joint security workshop in Guam for the island nations in the North Pacific to identify and mitigate illicit drugs in the supply chain. It was attended by approximately 20 customs officials and security focal points.
- The work of the Illicit Goods Mitigation Expert Team (IGMET) continued with the development of an informational brochure as well as with the identification of activities for continued focus within the Abidjan Congress Cycle.

¹ Under the UPU Constitution, restricted unions promote further cooperation among posts from a specific region.

- On March 1, 2023, the UPU concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) which will facilitate more focused collaborative activities in the future.

World Customs Organization (WCO)

- The Ninth Right Holders Consultative Group Meeting and the Nineteenth CAP Meeting took place on November 15, 2022.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- The WTO Report on Tackling Illicit Trade in Medical Products was published in July 27, 2022, in a dedicated launch event. The report focusses on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and TRIPS Agreement as tools in the fight against illicit trade in medical products. Finding that what is needed is more data to assess the extent of the problem and better cooperation at the international level to deliver better technical assistance and facilitate better coordination at the national levels, the report calls for joint efforts with the private sector.
- The report was presented, inter alia, at the second UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum and a UNECE Workshop on the Role of market surveillance role in combatting counterfeit products.

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