

**ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings
Geneva, 3 – 11 October 2016
Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS**

General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to express their compliments to the WIPO both for endeavors invested since the last Assemblies meeting to maintain the position of the Organization as the global intellectual property authority and for undertaking activities and initiatives in the development of all fields of intellectual property system. We are encouraging joint efforts of the WIPO Secretariat and the Member States in considering further advancement of the WIPO governance as a contribution to mastering the challenges ahead of the Organization in response to increased complexity of their work.

We are also grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat for enormous efforts they have made over the last year for the preparation of the series of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies, Committees and Working Groups.

Montenegro is sharing the statements given respectively by Latvia on behalf of the Regional Group of Central European and Baltic States and by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

With regard to developments in Montenegro, the legislative activities were intensive over the period between two assemblies. All the laws regulating intellectual property fields were amended (the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, The Law on the Trade Mark, the Law on the Industrial Design, the Law on Topographies of Semiconductor Products). The foregoing Laws were amended with their effect from July and August 2016, so as to accomplish full harmonization with the EU legal framework.

Montenegro keeps on moving along its European path and remains the front runner in the EU integration process in the Western Balkans. This is an achievement of the entire society. The IP Office plays essential role in negotiating process for Chapter 7-Intellectual property law, together with the Ministry of Economy as legislative body and all relevant institutions involved in the enforcement process. The dynamics of the accession negotiations is high, with crucial goal to close Chapter 7 in near future.

The cooperation between WIPO and our country has always been excellent. The **Seminar on the Madrid and Hague system**, organized in Podgorica on September 6, 2016, turned to be one of the highlights of this cooperation since the last series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies. The Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC Division) and the CEBS Group were kindly provided us with an opportunity to participate in remarkable events (Working Group of Madrid System, 30 and 31 Session on IGC, Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, Budapest, Sub-Regional Seminar on IP Policies in Universities and R&D institutions, Budapest, Conference High Level Conference on IP for Countries along the Belt and Silk Road, Beijing) and the other significant activities, organized by WIPO at Geneva and outside of it

Our delegation highly appreciates the supportive approach of TDC Department of WIPO and the CEBS Group and is grateful for the assistance provided by the WIPO.

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The IP Office continues to be dedicated to fostering high level of cooperation with the European Patent Organization and the EUIPO, as well as the bilateral cooperation as of the key interests to our Office.

And last, but not least, the Montenegrin delegation underlines their commitment to contribute in a positive and broad-minded way to the success of these General Assemblies.