

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO  
Fifty-Seventh Series of Meetings  
Geneva, October 2 to 11, 2017

Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Delegation of Croatia wishes to express its appreciation for WIPO's efforts and activities in building the global system of intellectual property legal protection and in providing an open forum for a dialogue on improvement of numerous fields of intellectual property system that provides an incentive for innovation and creativity worldwide. This delegation is pleased to note that WIPO continues to make significant efforts to provide an effective functioning of the international intellectual property registration and filing systems administrated by the International Bureau. We would also like to thank the Bureau for the comprehensive and valuable work in the preparation of this General Assembly and other meetings throughout the year.

Croatia acknowledges the progress made within various WIPO Committees during the last year and encourages WIPO activities contributing to a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.

We sincerely hope for the Member States to reach a common understanding at this General Assembly on the adoption of a formal treaty on industrial designs from which the users from all the Member States, regardless of their level of development, would undoubtedly benefit. We also look forward to a constructive discussion on the possible renewal of the mandate and work programme for the IGC.

We support the discussions within the SCCR on the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organisations and invite the Member States to make an additional effort to finalize this long standing issue. There are no doubts that there is a significant need for adequate and effective protection of broadcasting organisations which will be digital-proof and fit to meet the requirements of emerging technologies of the future.

We appeal to the Member States to focus our work during these Assemblies on the substantive issues that matter the most for the users and set aside unfruitful discussions on issues that do not stem from their genuine needs.

We would like to highlight that in December last year we marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia. The Office was established immediately after the Republic of Croatia became an independent state, thus providing continuity of the effective national intellectual property system on the territory of nowadays Republic of Croatia since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We would once again like to express our appreciation to Deputy General Ms Sylvie Forbin who honoured the occasion and attended the anniversary conference.

We use this opportunity to share with this forum that the Academy of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia is dedicated to providing training for various user groups (this year extending its activities also to children and youth), relying on its

own initiatives and resources or in collaboration with other organizations. Since the beginning of 2014, in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, the Academy offers a localised version of the distance learning course General Intellectual Property Course in Croatian (DL-101 HR) thus providing access to intellectual property learning in national language not only to users from Croatia but also to the users of the neighbouring countries where Croatian language is spoken or can be comprehended. The course is organised regularly twice a year and almost 500 participants from Croatia and neighbouring countries seized this excellent opportunity so far to extend their knowledge of intellectual property.

In this vein, we would like to emphasise that Croatia is dedicated to the combat against the worrying problem of counterfeiting and piracy in digital environment. This is the second year of our national campaign (including the national office, enforcements bodies and stakeholders) on risks related to the on-line purchase of counterfeit and pirated goods, which aims to raise citizens' awareness of counterfeit and pirated goods that are sold on-line as genuine, acquaint citizens with legal, financial and health risks and possible damaging consequences of such a purchase and inform them on protection against purchases of such goods. The outreach of this project has proven to be beyond expectations.

Lastly, at the outset of this year's series of WIPO Assemblies, the Delegation of Croatia would like to express our appreciation to all the Member States for their cooperation, and wishes to all the Members States fruitful deliberations and a successful 57<sup>th</sup> series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

(Zagreb, 29.9.2017)