



REGERINGSKANSLIET

2 October 2017

Ministry of Enterprise and
Innovation

Sweden

Opening Statement by Sweden at the 57:th Series of Meetings

Chairperson,

First of all, we would like to thank you Ambassador for all efforts you made prior to this meeting and we are looking forward to a productive meeting under your guidance. Our congratulations also extend to the vice-chairs.

We would also like to congratulate ambassador DUAONG CHI DUNG on the election as future Chairperson.

The secretariat should also be praised for all the preparatory work.

This delegation fully supports the statements made by Japan on behalf of Group B and by Estonia, on behalf of EU and its member states.

Sweden would also like to thank the Director General and Deputy Director Generals and Assistant Director Generals. We appreciate the work done and the contributions made to further the work of WIPO.

Regarding developments in Sweden we want to share with the Assemblies the following:

- Intellectual property law is an important framework for investments in knowledge-based capital. It is a key area for growth and competitiveness and forms part of the framework conditions for innovation both, at universities and the society as

a whole. The government of Sweden have set a broad focus on intellectual assets and the role of intellectual property in relation to these assets. Therefore, the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV) has been given the mandate to promote growth in the long term and strengthen innovation and competitiveness throughout the country by informing and contributing to increased understanding of the management of intangible assets, in of companies and by players in the public innovation system. As a consequence of this broader focus in addition to registration services, the Swedish and Patent and Registration Office (PRV) as of the 1st of January 2017, has returned to be financed by the government.

- The Swedish government has also commissioned PRV and VINNOVA, the Swedish Innovation Agency, to increase knowledge and awareness of intellectual properties and management of intangible assets to SMEs, universities, advisors in the Swedish public innovation support system, research funding agencies and governmental agencies.
- For the users of the Swedish Patent and Registration Office examination and registration services in the field of patents, including PRV's role as a PCT-authority, trademarks and design will not be affected by the change, rather they should still expect an excellent service as to timeliness, quality and reliability of the services. Worth mentioning in this context is the introduction of a more comprehensive search report in national patent applications last year.
- In order to further promote digitalisation, a differentiated fee will be introduced. Digital application posted by the office web tools will benefit from a lower application and renewal fee, than a traditional paper application.

This Delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the excellent cooperation between WIPO and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office in relation to advanced training programmes financed by the Swedish international development cooperation agency, Sida.

This cooperation was an important factor when Sida this year decided to expand its commitment in relation to intellectual property by funding an additional yearly program directed to "Intellectual Property for Least Developed Countries", which now will be organised three times each year. Moreover, Sida decided to finance a new training

programme “Intellectual property and genetic resources-in support of innovation” that will be given twice a year, this new program will start in November this year. The organisation of these is a co-operation between the Swedish Patent and Registration Office and WIPO, the LDC-division and the TK-division respectively. We would like to thank WIPO and in particular the LDC-division and the TK-division for their enduring and invaluable work and support for these programmes.

Sweden attaches great importance to good governance. Therefore, this delegation continues to welcome and support measures leading to mechanisms that are responsive, transparent and robust over-time. The organisation has made great improvements under the Director General and his team, and we are looking forward to further enhancements in this respect.

It is also of great importance to this delegation that services of WIPO improve their efficiency as well as meeting its customers’ needs for international protection of their intellectual property. In line with this, WIPO should provide and develop the international legal intellectual property framework and the infrastructure, to make best use of IP as a driving force for economic development, creativity and innovation. We would also like to emphasize the importance of financial viability of the respective unions. This delegation is willing to contribute to a just, reasonable and balanced solution.

The work of the committees of WIPO is important. We would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the important work done by the SCT, especially the immense work over the last years with the Design Law Formalities Treaty. We recognize the great importance and added value of harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities and procedures.

With regard to the SCCR, we would like to extend our gratitude to the WIPO secretariat for its continuous efforts to move the issues on the agenda forward and we would like to reiterate our commitment to constructively participate in the future deliberations of the Committee.

With regard to CWS we are pleased to note continued solution-oriented work

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the great importance of WIPO:s Global Intellectual Property Services, and we stand ready to contribute to the valuable work within the PCT and the Madrid systems.

Finally, Sweden looks forward to continuing its successful cooperation within WIPO on the development of the international intellectual property system to the benefit of economic, social and cultural development of all.

Thank you Chair