

## **GREECE**

### **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Series of Meetings**

**Geneva, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

#### **General Statement (Agenda item 5)**

Honorable Chair,  
Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Mr. Chair we are pleased to see you presiding and thank you for your commitment and leadership. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for their professionalism in preparing for the Assemblies. We thank Director General Tang for his leadership and for successfully gearing WIPO in delivering its strategic goals.

Our delegation aligns with the statements delivered by group B and by the European Union and its member states. Furthermore, we wish to comment on the prudent management of WIPO resources, which resulted in a positive financial result and increase of net assets. Making the IP system easily accessible and responsive to the needs of users should remain a priority. Delivering high quality services and digital transformation will further strengthen trust in the IP ecosystem. Working towards a balanced system would facilitate an enabling environment for socio-economic growth of all societies.

The IP system domestically continued to support innovation and creativity, securing a stable environment for development and growth. Trademark filings before the Greek Trademarks Office continued to increase. E-filing ratio

increased in the last 2<sup>½</sup> years from 40% in 2019 to 80% in September 2021. Until September 2021 5.276 national and 767 international applications were filed. Following digitization of the Trademarks Registry, a quality control has been performed successfully, resulting to a complete and reliable electronic database.

A major change to be communicated, is the transfer of trade mark registrations to the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI). Industrial property titles will be managed by one authority, namely OBI. Pending a Ministerial Decision specifying the date of initiation of trade mark filings before OBI, preparations are under way for smoothly transitioning to the new regime.

Patent filings before the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) continued to increase despite the pandemic. The grant of IP titles was not disrupted. Patent applicants benefited from a 33% decreased search fee, which contributed to the increase of filings by 30%. Electronic filing and improvements to IT infrastructure tools made access to the IP system easier and enabled an effective management of IP titles. On IP awareness raising, a series of activities were organized to sensitize consumers on the importance of buying authentic products and combat counterfeiting, the highlight of which was certifying the island of Mykonos as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Greek city to join the network of “Authenticities” launched by EUIPO. Finally, the innovative efforts of two Greek universities and research centers, two SMEs and two individual inventors were rewarded during the 4<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony, signaling the importance of innovation.

In relation to enforcement, the Interagency for Market Control (D.I.M.E.A.) in cooperation and coordination with Greek IP Enforcement Authorities delivered notable results against the combat of counterfeiting: 23.952 controls were carried out from August 2020 to August 2021, which resulted to 82.835 seized counterfeit items and imposed fines of 1.537.200 €.

In relation to copyright, a number of significant initiatives have been undertaken by the Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO). The role and competence of the National Administrative Enforcement Authority (known as Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringements on the Internet) has been reinforced by a legislative amendment in July 2021, which empowers the Committee to order the live blocking of access to infringing copyright material in cases of high-scaled infringement. This power is significant in relation to national or international live streaming television events, especially sport events, as it efficiently tackles the issue of the piracy in the digital environment.

Moreover, the implementation of the EU Directives 2019/790 and 2019/789 in the Greek legal order is expected to enter into force. Finally, the HCO sees to the constant supply of the national portal of 'Agorateka' with new sources providing the Greek public with a wide range of lawful choices with regard to creative work such as music, movies, series, videogames, images and books.

Closing, our delegation reiterates its engagement to contribute constructively to the discussions.

Thank you Chair.