

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for all their preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

Innovation is a key driver for economic growth. There is a need for research and development to ensure a sustainable growth and thereby combat the multitude of global challenges that society at all levels of development is faced with. Therefore, there must be a proper incentive to ensure return of the significant investment associated with the undertaking of such tasks.

Against this background Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary instrument in harvesting the fruits of innovation for the benefit of development and economy, as well as for sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology. WIPO plays a key role as the organization is established to promote the protection of IPR globally through cooperation between states.

In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO deliver cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark applaud WIPO's efforts for improving the global IP systems including the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems, and supports the continuing development of IT services for users and offices alike. Smooth systems, ongoing dedication to simplification and cost-savings for the benefit of the users are crucial to a continued and increased use of these global IP services. We note with satisfaction that the working groups under these systems continue to make progress for improving regulations, guidelines and practices.

In relation to the Design Law Formality Treaty, Denmark continue to believe that the text achieved in 2014 is sufficient mature for a Diplomatic Conference.

Denmark is supportive of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents work concerning development of patent law and expects that these efforts will progress towards the objective of harmonization of patent laws to the benefit of users and society, as originally envisaged when setting up the committee. Danish users attach great importance to such a substantive harmonization. However, the SCP has not delivered on this objective, and it is our opinion, based on this fact, that time is ripe to look into what kind of initiatives could be taken to in order to speed up the process in the SCP.

In relation to other committees Denmark acknowledge the progress made and look forward to continue the work.

We would like to briefly inform about a few IP highlights in Denmark:

The Danish Consolidate Trade Marks Act has been modernized and brought in line with the EU trademark system. A trademark need no longer to be graphical reproduced but may be presented by modern technological means, e.g. a sound file. Further, an applicant can request a reasoned search report and request fast-track processing of the trademark application. Finally, to enforce the trademark protection and combat counterfeiting, provisions are implemented to prevent false goods in transit to enter Danish territory.

The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search- and examination authority jointly founded by Iceland, Norway and Denmark – continued to deliver high quality products to its applicants.

Denmark underlines its commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies. The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services is important for Danish users and we wish to ensure that WIPO strive to deliver world-class services.

Thank you.