

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO – Fifty-fourth Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 22 to 30, 2014**

CEBS Statements

Item 5 - Opening Statement

1. Honorable Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates, it is my great honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States. Madam Chair, the CEBS Group would like to thank you for your guidance up to now as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and to wish you success in your forthcoming work during these sessions taking place in this new conference hall. Our appreciations extend to your vice-chairs as well. We would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their work in preparing well-arranged, clear documents for these sessions.
2. The CEBS Group continues to support the activities of WIPO and its unique role in the field of intellectual property protection.
3. We believe that WIPO will successfully continue to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world in accordance with its mandate and its goal, i.e. to make IP work and to enable all users to realize the potential of IP for innovations and creativity for the benefit of all.
4. First of all we commend the current stable financial situation of WIPO. We appreciate and highlight the work of the Program and Budget Committee. The CEBS Group encourages the Secretariat to continue to carry out prudent financial management policy in accordance with the recommendations of the PBC. The CEBS welcomes the expansion of the global registration systems, which provide global IP services for applicants and right holders and other users. The CEBS Group supports their further improvements. We particularly support the activities of the PCT Working Group towards the enhancement of the PCT system and its use.
5. The CEBS Group continues to attach great importance to further improvements and necessary completion of international normative framework for the balance and effectiveness of the international IP system. Following the successful conclusions of the Beijing and the Marrakesh Treaties, we believe that this session shall decide on convening a Diplomatic conference for adoption of a Design Law Treaty in 2015. This treaty would simplify the formalities related to obtaining design protection and improve access to design protection around the world, particularly for SMEs.
6. The CEBS Group recognizes the importance of the protection of geographical indications. It therefore welcomes further progress made by the Lisbon Union Working Group and the 2013 decision of the Lisbon Union Assembly on convening a Diplomatic Conference in 2015. Our Group is convinced that the revised Lisbon System covering also geographical indications will be attractive for many countries from different regions as well as for various intergovernmental organizations.
7. As to the patent law, the CEBS Group remains committed to continue and improve

discussions on all topics under the current work program of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. We hope that the Committee will be able to launch discussion on respective substantive issues concerning patent law towards patent harmonization.

8. The CEBS Group would like to express its strong commitment to the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). We reiterate our particular concern about the long-standing process with regard to safeguarding an international legal protection for the broadcasting organizations. We trust in reaching mutual consensus on finalizing the proposal for the treaty on the protection of the broadcasting organizations in view of the technological realities of the 21st century as soon as possible, enabling us to convene a Diplomatic Conference to be held in 2016.
9. The CEBS Group remains committed to the work of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore. We can only reiterate that a basic consensus on number of fundamental, substantive issues that lack clarity is needed. We remain willing to work constructively towards an appropriately balanced and flexible outcome. Accordingly, the CEBS Group hopes that a future work program for the IGC will be results-oriented, realistic and effective.
10. The CEBS Group continues to attach great importance to the activities of the Advisory Committee for Enforcement and reiterates its strong commitment to the fight against counterfeiting and piracy at all levels.
11. The CEBS Group would like to thank the Secretariat especially for its overall assistance given to countries in our region, particularly in developing national IP strategies, in providing legal, financial and other assistance. We welcome the cooperation with the WIPO Academy.
12. It cannot go unnoticed that the past year was an election year in WIPO. The renewed mandate of the Director General and the to-be-acquired mandate of the new senior management team come with renewed responsibility – responsibility of Member States to guide the work of the Secretariat, and responsibility of the leadership to deliver on promises made during the past year. In this regard, we must reiterate that our Group has a lot to offer to the organization, including able and experienced professionals to serve our common goal. We await better representation of CEBS Group in the Secretariat. Let us express our belief that tangible results in this respect will be reached under the second mandate of the Director General together with his new senior management team and in close cooperation with the Member States.
13. The CEBS Group is ready to actively and constructively participate in the oncoming discussions at this session and to contribute to achieve positive results.
14. Madam Chair, not mentioning by name some of the topics at hand does not mean our disinterest. Trying my best to respect the time allocation for this statement, our Group will address further important issues in subsequent agenda items.

Thank you.