

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Geneva October 4 to 8, 2021

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

Ms. Ledina Beqiraj, General Director of the IP Office

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellency Director General,

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the excellent results achieved since the previous General Assembly Meeting, bearing in mind the extreme difficult and stressful working conditions of the COVID-19 we all had to pass through this pandemic situation.

However, despite these challenging times, let me underline that the General Directorate of Intellectual Property of Albania has met its objectives set for the period 2020-2021.

In this context, let me emphasize some achievements we had in the industrial property field.

Albania has remained focused on implementing its National Strategy on Intellectual Property for the period 2016-2020 Therefore, the General Directorate of Industrial Property, in the role of the Technical Secretariat, has collected data from the line ministries and central institutions which are involved in the Strategy implementation, compiling the matrix of goals for the indicators to be fulfilled.

Since May 2020, we have started to draft the new National Strategy for the years 2021-2025 and in this context let me underline that we are grateful for the technical support provided by WIPO.

Even though, the working group in charge for drafting the document, worked in hard conditions due to the pandemic situation, there has been remarkable progress. Henceforth, all the interviews with the state institutions and the different stakeholders were virtually organised to identify all the gaps and the challenges in the IP field.

The draft strategy has already passed the phase of public consultation and will be sent to the Council of Ministers for approval. Its approval by the Council of Ministers is foreseen within the current month of October.

Furthermore, a National Workshop is foreseen to be organised in close cooperation with WIPO, in order to launch this new strategic document to all the institutions involved in the country in its enforcement process.

It is important to outline that this marks the third national strategy in the field of IP and it is the most important document as such as it gathers all the responsible institutions in the IP field to closely cooperate together in reaching the strategic objectives on the matter.

The approval of the Law 9947 “*On Industrial Property*” as amended, which is currently in alignment with European Trade Secret Directive (EC Directive 2016 / 943) marks also another significant achievement for Albania.

That recommendation made by the European Commission, is foreseen in the National Plan for European Integration 2020-2022. Moreover, other amendments are done as regard to the inspection body, aiming to adopt legal provisions and procedures for the administrative protection of infringement of industrial property rights.

At the meantime, Albania has continued to promote IP rights and the importance of the IP registration regarding the various businesses / start up-s, universities, and different categories in different districts of our country.

Another important achievement worth mentioning is the establishment of IP Training Centre which organizes activities, courses, trainings and seminars in the field of IP. This Centre was launched in the framework of the “World IP Day” and the modules on IP matters tailored for different categories of stakeholders are currently under preparation with the support of WIPO Academy.

In accordance with the above-mentioned campaign, many raising awareness activities were organized in the country on April 26, and along the month to celebrate the World IP day.

The Republic of Albania participates in the series of Roundtables on the International Copyright Education, organised by WIPO in collaboration with the U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress United States of America, among others. The aim to participate in this project was to learn from the international experiences in drafting the necessary policies, specifically targeting the teachers and the youth generation for learning and knowledge sharing on IP matters.

In terms of cooperation, we would like to inform that the Republic of Albania has signed Memorandums of Understanding with different partners, national and international, promoting the IP rights and strengthening the multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

At the same time, Albania is looking forward to further deepen its cooperation with WIPO, also, in terms of capacity building and technical assistance in regarding the aspects of intellectual property rights.

Some activities are in the implementation phase such as:

The German experience is offered as regard the Supplementary Patent Protection (SPC) to Republic of Albania, a suggestion and coordination provided under the assistance of WIPO.

Moreover, a webinar will be organized on September 28th, providing German expertise on this matter for the Republic of Albania.

More attention will be provided for the IP outreach campaigns in the coming months, as well.

In conclusion, wishing success to WIPO Assemblies, we would like to express a special thanks to WIPO and to reaffirm our commitment on further developing the intellectual property system in Albania based on a solid collaboration with WIPO.

Thank you!