

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SERBIA

“Madame President, You’re Excellency Director General, Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me, first of all, to <sup>WELCOME</sup> congratulate you, Madame President in this eminent position and to wish you successful leadership of these assemblies.

I would also like to congratulate you, Director General, for your unanimous reelection, for the second mandate. I use this opportunity to express my warm gratitude to you and WIPO for the generous support you have been providing to the Republic of Serbia through all these years in the establishment of the modern and efficient system of intellectual property.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Republic of Serbia fully endorses the statement made by the Czech Republic on behalf of the CEBS, <sup>GROUP</sup>

Let me inform you shortly about some important achievements that Republic of Serbia has accomplished since the last General Assemblies in the field of intellectual property.

Since January 1 of this year only two courts in Serbia <sup>ARE</sup> ~~have been~~ competent in the first degree in the IP civil cases. In our view, that is a prerequisite for the efficient and expert trials in this field.

In the course of the last year, Intellectual Property Office, through its Centre for Education and Information, intensively worked on the providing of information to the business entities on the advantages of protection of their IP assets and the threatening dangers of piracy and counterfeiting. In cooperation with the chambers of commerce and the Judicial Academy, 78 seminars were held intended for the SMEs, R&D Institutes and Universities and institutions engaged in the enforcement of intellectual property rights. These seminars were attended by nearly 2000 participants.

I would particularly like to stress that sub-regional workshop on the technologies transfer, intended for the representatives of the TT Offices, held in Belgrade last week. An IP school was also organized in the frame of European Danube Initiative, in cooperation with WIPO.

We believe that our dedicated work in the domain of knowledge dissemination and raising public awareness may be connected to the raise in the number of applications of patents, trademarks and industrial designs in 2013, up to 20%.

We would like to express our gratitude to the WIPO and its support in the elaboration of two very important studies: one related to the contribution of the copyright based industries to the Serbian economy and second concerning the impact of the Serbian IP policy to the innovation. These studies will contribute to the policy making process of our government, particular for the drafting of the new Innovation Law which has been starting recently.

We would also like to highlight relevance of the WIPO information platform which we use in the IPO of Serbia. IPAS is now the main platform for the administration of all industrial property rights. In addition to that, Serbian language was added to the Madrid Goods and Service Manager, which is of the great importance for all our trademark applicants.

Finally, I would like to highlight that the Republic of Serbia will continue to cooperate constructively with WIPO and its member states in resolving all challenging IP issues, in order to build harmonized and sustainable system of intellectual property rights.

Thank you for your attention.