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General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Francis Gurry and the Bureau 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 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 for sharing of knowledge. WIPO plays a key role as this organization is established to promote the protection of IPR globally through cooperation between states as prescribed in article 3 of the WIPO Convention.

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 acknowledges WIPO's efforts for improving the global IP systems including PCT and Madrid and the IT services for users and offices alike. We welcome the amendments to benefit users, and we congratulate WIPO for increasing efficiency in its operations.

Normative work and method of working

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 highly appreciates the information exchange in the Advisory Committee on Enforcement in order to combat IPR infringements.

This delegation takes stock of the modest progress in the work of the norm-setting committees.

While Denmark notes that the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) successfully agreed to a future work program, we still believe that the primary objective of this committee is to develop international, substantive patent law harmonization.

Denmark supports a renewed mandate for the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

We welcome the effort of the Secretariat in implementing the Development Agenda (DA). WIPO has an important role to play in bringing the issue of IP to the attention to all stakeholders regardless of level of development.

The inclusion of the DA recommendations must be seen in conjunction with the overall goal of WIPO as stated in the WIPO Convention, “to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states”.

National Danish Highlights on IP

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

On 1 January 2017 the new Enforcement and Anti-Counterfeiting Unit in the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) began operations. The unit is a focal contact point for businesses, consumers and public authorities, and aims to guide users in concrete cases of infringement of industrial property rights as well as general information and guidance on infringement and enforcement issues. Further, the unit assists the police and prosecutors in their efforts against IPR crimes.

The Danish Government authorities continue to cooperate closely on combating counterfeiting and piracy. The cooperation takes place through the Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements, where 12 public sector bodies participate. The results of the work are described in the Network’s annual report, which contains an executive summary in English:

<http://www.stopfakes.dk/media/164504/%C3%A5rsrapport%202016.web.pdf>.

The DKPTO supported by the Danish Industry Foundation have, as a part of a comprehensive IPR Business Insight project, launched an advanced e-tool for practising accountants. The e-tool will enable accountants to assist business customers to navigate through IPR opportunities and reduce risks.

At DKPTO, we have been running the website, IP Marketplace (www.ip-marketplace.org), for ten years. The aim with the website is to encourage more companies to trade with IP-rights, i.e. increase their licensing activities or buy and/or sell their IP-assets. Since trading with IP-rights is global in nature, the DKPTO has continuously worked on establishing co-operation agreements with other organisations as well as worked on lifting the efforts up to an international level. The interest in the subject has been growing the past 2-3 years, among others with a recent initiative from the European Commission to establish a Patent Licensing Online Information Tool, part of a larger package to support SMEs. DKPTO welcomes this initiative and is looking forward to following the development in the Commission's work.

The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search- and examination authority founded by Iceland, Norway and Denmark – successfully hosted the annual Meeting for International Authorities (MIA) in February 2017 in Reykjavik, Iceland. NPI continued as well to deliver high quality products to its applicants in 2017.

Closing remarks

Denmark underlines its continuing 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.