

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic  
at the General Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,  
21 to 29 September 2020

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

On this occasion, the Czech Republic would also like to thank the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, for his continued efforts to promote, develop and improve the international IP system with the passionate dedication to IP, supported by his deep expertise in this field, and for the excellent cooperation of WIPO with national IP authorities. We wish him all the best in his further professional and private life.

At the same time, we congratulate Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment as the next Director General of WIPO. With our wishes of full success in his new mission, we look forward to continuing our well-established cooperation with WIPO in the field of intellectual property. We assure him our full support during his forthcoming tenure.

Then, we also thank the Secretariat for their work and for preparing this meeting.

The Czech Republic wishes to express its continued support for the pivotal role of the WIPO as the global forum for the IP services, policy, information, and cooperation. We attach great importance to the efficient and accessible IPR system, which encourages innovation and creativity, promotes knowledge diffusion and facilitates technology transfer for economic and social growth. We support all WIPO's activities, taking into account the needs of IP system users.

We are clearly aware that from this spring epidemiologic situation in Europe and around the world has been significantly affecting the ordinary business of this organization. Therefore, we are grateful to WIPO for exploring ways how to continue the work of the organization and conduct committee sessions in virtual mode. Especially, we would like to highlight the excellent cooperation, assistance and very useful sharing of IP related information on new WIPO services provided to public or IP community by the WIPO Secretariat, particularly by Mr. Michal Svantner, Director of the Department for Transition and Developed Countries and his team.

We continue to pay great attention to the improvement of global IP protection systems, the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon System and other services provided to users.

The Czech delegation recalls its appreciation of ongoing efforts of the Lisbon Union members aimed at eliminating the budget deficit of the Union. We are actively engaged in the deliberations at the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System in order to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Union.

As regards the WIPO's normative activities, we still and patiently hope that the long-anticipated decision to convene a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Design Law

Treaty will be achieved. We remain convinced that the appropriate forum for discussion relating to the disclosure requirement is the IGC.

The Czech Republic is actively involved in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). We believe that it could ultimately result in reaching consensus on the Treaty for Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, which should be a meaningful instrument for both current and future needs of the protection. We also still support the proposal to include the topic of the resale right on the agenda of the Committee.

We would like to express our satisfaction with the work progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). In this sense, we recall our expectation to reach more technical debate relating to substantive patent law harmonization at this Committee.

In the domain of the IP enforcement, we continue to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which serves as the multilateral forum for sharing the best practice in IP enforcement. We welcome the growing engagement of the Member States from all regions.

Artificial Intelligence is one of the national priorities of the Czech Republic. Therefore, we strongly welcome the launch of the debate on AI from the IP perspective and support its continuation in the near future.

Likewise, the Czech IP Office welcomes with pleasure all relevant study visits and internships organized with WIPO.

In conclusion, the Czech delegation would like to express its readiness to continue a close and rich cooperation with WIPO. Despite the current difficult sanitary situation, we look forward to engaging in a constructive discussion.

Thank you.