

**GREECE**

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

**57<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings**

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**PCT System Statement (Agenda item 21)**

Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election. We would like to take the opportunity to convey our satisfaction with the performance of the Patent Cooperation Treaty system. Increased PCT filings contributed to the positive financial result of the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2016.

The system is robust thanks to the tireless efforts and commitment of WIPO's staff. For a system to remain robust, continuous improvement should take place to correspond to new challenges and to the changing needs of users. At the same time, it should be conducive to innovation and provide incentives to ensure accessibility to any interested user, especially those with limited financial resources. In the past two years fee reductions to the international filing fee for eligible natural persons, have enabled Greek applicants to file international applications and pursue the protection of innovative products worldwide. University driven innovation should also be stimulated through lowering the entry costs. Any fee reductions should be explored on the understanding, that the impact to the PCT revenue is minimal. We welcome the discussions initiated in the PCT Working group and look forward to a positive outcome.

We reiterate our commitment to the continuous development of the PCT system.  
Thank you Chair.