

GREECE

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

58th Series of Meetings

Geneva, September 24th, 2018

General Statement (Agenda item 5)

Chair,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to congratulate his excellence Ambassador Chi Dung Duong on his appointment as Chair of the General Assembly. We would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairs on their appointment.

We thank Director General Gurry for his dedicated commitment to the accomplishment of WIPO's strategic goals. The WIPO Secretariat needs to be also praised for its support and qualitative work in preparation of the great volume of documents of the current Assemblies.

Our delegation aligns with the statements delivered by group B and by the European Union and its member states. WIPO's positive financial result for a six straight year has been driven by the continuous increase in global demand for intellectual property, reflects an efficient and prudent management and provides a sound financial basis. In this context, the global economic situation should be monitored, to allow for adjustments.

With respect to the establishment of new External offices, decisions should be made in line with WIPO's guiding principles adopted by the 2015 Assemblies and aim at the optimization of available resources.

The Greek economy is steadily growing again, after nearly a decade of recession. Our goal is to build on this momentum and foster an export-driven and innovation-friendly business environment. The Madrid System can contribute decisively to this objective by facilitating commerce and making trademark registration across countries more accessible. In order to help realize this potential, we have already completed a fully digital connection between the WIPO information system and our national trademark database. In the near future we will also transition from a national system of managing international trademark licenses to direct registrations to WIPO. At the same time, we are in the process of implementing a three-year strategic plan for combatting trade of counterfeit goods. Monitoring activities across the country, including the borders, have increased by over 200% in the last two years and cooperation between competent authorities has been reinforced by amendments to the relevant legislation.

Of course a lot of work remains to be done, especially, within WIPO. We remain committed to the adoption of the Design Law Treaty and remain hopeful that a Diplomatic Conference will be convened in 2019. Progress on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, is noted and should help build a consensus on core issues. On patent law, even though issues of harmonization are not discussed in the Standing Committee, we strongly believe that users would greatly benefit from a harmonized patent system. We hope that an agreement will be reached to initiate discussions. At the same time, incentives to promote innovative activity, such as fee reductions to encourage university driven innovation, should be considered in the context of the Patent Cooperation Treaty system, which is continuously growing.

Our delegation remains committed to discussing these issues in a constructive spirit.

Thank you Chair.