

GREECE

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

64th Series of Meetings

Geneva, July 6th, 2023

General Statement (Agenda item 5)

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Madam Chair we are pleased to see you presiding and are confident that you will lead these General Assembly to a successful outcome. We also thank Director General Tang for his commitment in pursuing WIPO's strategic goals and the Secretariat for preparing these Assemblies.

Greece aligns with the statements delivered by group B as well as those of the European Union and its member states. The positive financial result is noted with satisfaction, despite the unstable geopolitical situation and the volatility of markets. Such result was facilitated by the PCT and Madrid systems, which remain robust. We reiterate the need to ensure a sustainable IP system delivering quality services and facilitating access to users. Toward this end, technical assistance to build a solid IP system worldwide is important for technological development and economic growth.

As regards the national IP system, support to innovation and creativity, continued to guide efforts of IP authorities. As of May 2022 the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation is competent for trademarks, thus becoming the sole authority in the Hellenic Republic dealing with IP rights. The Organisation and its staff have been working hard in the new field, allowing the trademark grant process to be

accelerated and the backlog of applications to be eliminated. Patent filings before the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) increased by 12%. OBI facilitated the entry to the patent system by subsidizing search fees, which combined with incentives to innovative entities contributed to an increased patent activity. Digitalization of proceedings and improvement of the IT infrastructure remain a priority for improving our services and access to the IP system. Raising awareness on the importance of IPRs and their enforcement, was another target pursued via numerous activities and educational programs. We are pleased to report that a draft Law to ratify the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement on industrial designs has been prepared and is pending for adoption.

The Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO), which constitutes the competent national authority for copyright and related rights issues, would like to address its constant commitment to the achievement of a high level protection for the respective rightholders. Within the framework of its objectives the HCO runs a number of educational and training programs addressing, inter alia, judges, lawyers and students. Additionally, upon recognition that the respect towards copyright and related rights is generated, cultivated and developed in the education realm, HCO informs and educates both teachers, pupils and students all over the country. HCO also assists the Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringement on the Internet (EDPPI), established under Art. 66E of Law 2121/1993, and has issued, since its establishment, more than 130 Decisions, concerning also live (sport) events.

The HCO and the WIPO are in close co-operation within the framework of alternative forms of disputes resolution following the signing of a relevant Memorandum of Cooperation between them. Within this context, the staff and officers of the HCO are trained, and joint actions are carried out to promote alternative forms of disputes resolution in copyright and related rights issues.

Our delegation remains committed to contribute constructively to the discussions.

Thank you.