

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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ITEM 15

Budapest Union Assembly

Thank you, Mr. Chair

1. The Czech Republic would like to thank you, the Vice-Chairs, and the WIPO Secretariat for their work in preparing for this Assembly.
2. We appreciate the preparation of the activity report on the operation of the Budapest system informing us about the latest developments and activities related to the Budapest Treaty since the last Meeting of this Assembly held in July 2022. We welcome the continued development of this system.
3. In this regard, the Czech Republic supports the creation of a task-specific expert group under the Budapest Union Assembly to address the issue of handling of microorganisms deposited with International Depository Authorities after the mandatory storage period expires. After due consultations at the national level, the Czech Collection of Microorganisms (acting as an IDA in the Czech Republic) would appreciate further clarification of Rule 9.1 of the Regulations under the Budapest Treaty. In our view, clear guidance would be beneficial for both the work of IDAs and the depositors of microorganisms.
4. The Czech Republic remains actively engaged in ongoing work to address this relevant issue.

I thank you.