

**GREECE**

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

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

**Geneva, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**General Statement (Agenda item 4)**

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

Chair we are pleased to see you presiding and are confident that you will lead us to a successful outcome. We thank Director General Tang for his commitment in pursuing WIPO's strategic goals and the Secretariat for its work in 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, mainly due to the robustness of the PCT and Madrid systems, despite the unstable geopolitical and economic situation. The need to monitor filing figures is highlighted, so as to act proactively, if needed. At the same time, efforts should continue to ensure that a balanced and sustainable IP system is available worldwide to the benefit of users and economic growth.

Regarding the national IP system and the patent filings before the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), as happened in 2022, the number exceeded the one thousand applications, showing a high-level stabilizing trend. This was the result of our continued effort and policy to raise the awareness for IP protection and IP benefits, that incentivized innovative enterprises, research centers and legal entities to enter the patent system and/or to increase their IP

portfolio. Furthermore, OBI continued to offer reduced search fees to all patent applicants. At the same time, the development and digitalization of the Organization's procedures continued to contribute to a more effective management and improved services to applicants. We are pleased to report that an Innovation Agency was recently established with a mission to connect the research community to the needs of industry and promote the utilization of research results by businesses in sectors of strategic importance to the national economy.

In the area of trademarks, significant progress was made over the past two years since OBI became competent for trademarks. OBI has achieved to accelerate the trademark registration process, a critical milestone in the ongoing efforts to upgrade operations. Furthermore, OBI is committed to digitalizing its services and to ensuring an efficient processing and adjudication of pending trademark cases. These initiatives aim to reinforce legal certainty, a longstanding requirement in our sector.

In addition to these advancements, OBI has significantly enhanced its outreach and dissemination of information concerning trademarks. Regularly scheduled actions and educational seminars have been organized, targeting professional chambers, IP professionals, and academic institutions to raise awareness on the importance of IP rights. These efforts are, also, designed to foster a more informed and engaged community, ensuring that all stakeholders are well-versed in the latest trademark regulations and practices.

Through the abovementioned initiatives, OBI, acting as the sole competent authority in the Hellenic Republic dealing with Industrial Property rights, continues its progress towards the improvement of granting IP titles, the digitization of its services, and the dissemination of information to all parties involved.

In the area of copyright, the Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO) intensified work and developed numerous multi-dimensional initiatives aimed at achieving a high level of protection of copyright and related–rights holders.

HCO strengthened the supervision of collective management organizations and enriched the monitoring of all entities willing to operate in Greece. It launched tailor-made raising-awareness campaigns via its dedicated website ([copyrightschool.gr](http://copyrightschool.gr)) and social media, and continued educational and training programs, addressed to the educational community, rightsholders, legal experts and stakeholders in general. In this regard, a collective work on the analysis of the major modifications introduced following the implementation of the latest EU copyright Directives was edited extending our work to academia for the first time.

Support to the legal, technical, and administrative work of the national administrative committee for combatting online piracy was provided by HCO experts. Almost 260 decisions have been issued ordering the blocking of access to illegal content, including live events, to hundreds of IPs and domain names, without receiving any complaints.

Finally, the Hellenic Copyright Organisation participates in the newly established Dedicated Network of national authorities joining as such with the Observatory of EUIPO common efforts for the enforcement of rights in the digital environment. At the same time HCO is a national contributor to the WIPO's initiative WIPO ALERT for discouraging the advertisement of illegal sources and promoting legal offers to the public via the 'enjoylegal' Portal, as part of the AGORATEKA initiative.

Our delegation is committed to contribute to the discussions in a constructive spirit.

Thank you.