

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WIPO
The Sixty-fifth Series of Meetings
Geneva, 9 – 17 July 2024

General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro

Honourable Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to express its appreciation to the WIPO for ongoing efforts aimed to sustain a supporting ambience for flourishing innovation and creativity. The services provided by the WIPO enable people to become introduced with the opportunities arising from their ideas. People are encouraged to create, protect the creations of their mind and promote them beyond boundaries thus drawing the landscape for further development of economy and society globally. Such approach within the role of WIPO is indeed worth praise which together with the WIPO's preparedness to respond to growing demands and challenges in the area of intellectual property make the WIPO a leading IP Organisation globally.

Let us commend numerous activities undertaken by all WIPO Divisions that are aimed to lead the development of a balanced, effective and sustainable international IP system.

We appreciate greatly the opportunity to take part in some of those activities. The results of our joint work in implementation of those activities contributed greatly to further enhancement of IP system in our country for the benefit of our citizens and wellbeing of our society.

It is our pleasure to inform on cooperation activities that have taken place in the period from 64th series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

Seminar Supporting Innovation and Creativity in Montenegro: Intellectual Property Strategy of Montenegro for the period 2023 – 2026, organized jointly by the WIPO and the Ministry of Economic Development (abbrev. MED), took place in Podgorica, on 28 November 2023. The event was an opportunity for introducing professional and wider public with the content of this crucial strategic document that was elaborated with the expert support of the WIPO. The event was followed by the meetings of the WIPO officials with the representatives of Montenegrin Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovations, when they endorsed previous fruitful cooperation and talked about future cooperation activities.

The IT staff of the Ministry of Economic Development together with the WIPO IT team were working on IPAS functionality: IPAS migration onto the new infrastructure was successfully completed; the IP data were entered into WIPO Publish; access to WIPO Global Brand Database (all data transferred onto SFTP WIPO). It is planned to implement migration of design data into IPAS and WIPO Publish, as well.

The IP staff of the MED participated at webinars and seminars organized by the WIPO. Trademark examiners (3 persons) participate at still ongoing *Pilot Project on Capacity Building for Trademark Examiners* (lasting from March to November 2024).

The WIPO provided legislative support through advice and consultation in drafting the amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, which has been recently completed and put onto Public Debate.

On occasion of celebration of the World IP Day 2024, the Ministry of Economic Development of Montenegro and Montenegrin Innovation Fund jointly organized an event titled *Innovation and Creativity - a Path towards Common Future*. The event gathered representatives of public IP authorities, innovation and university community, as well as interested citizens. The event was an opportunity to promote the importance and role of IP in achieving sustainable development goals and better future for everyone. Together with a WIPO speaker, we prepared interesting stories through which we demonstrated how innovation and creativity can contribute to the wellbeing of people. The event attracted great attention of Montenegrin public and media.

Delegation of Montenegro participated at the *Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge*, that was concluded with a historical success. It is with pleasure that Montenegro signed the *Final Act*.

Montenegro also ratified Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications on May 13, 2024.

We wish to confirm our full commitment to continued cooperation with the WIPO. We are eager both to participate at WIPO initiatives and events and to work jointly within regional and local projects.

Let us reiterate our thanks to WIPO Division for Transition and Developed Countries for excellent cooperation and full understanding of the needs of Montenegro's IPR protection and enforcement system.

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to congratulate to the WIPO Director General, WIPO Secretariat, WIPO Committees and all member states for excellence in preparing the 65th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of the WIPO and wish WIPO DG, WIPO Assemblies Chairperson and all the participants good and successful work.