

General statement

(submitted in writing)

Chair,

1. Slovenia is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. First, we would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this important Committee. We would also like to welcome the new Vice-Chairs and thank the WIPO Secretariat for its excellent work in preparing this meeting of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents.
2. We are pleased to note the success of the previous sessions of the Committee in constructively discussing and advancing the important topics on the agenda of the SCP and deciding on the future work of the Committee. The EU and its Member States are committed to engage constructively in our further discussions during this week.
3. We still believe that in order to take full advantage of the patent system, it is crucial to know how different patent law systems converge or diverge as well as to learn from best practices across the globe. The work of the SCP, as a multilateral forum, is therefore of great importance for the further development, harmonisation and improvement of the international patent system as requested by users worldwide.
4. Chair, for the EU and its Member States, the quality of patents, including opposition systems and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, continue to be one of the priority issues. Further work in this area is beneficial to all countries, since it strives to enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. In addition to important deliberations on AI, we also welcome the fact that the insightful study on approaches to the quality of the patent grant process contained in SCP/31/3 is still open for further discussion. We look forward to the sharing session on the use of artificial intelligence for examination of patent applications. AI technology provides numerous opportunities and challenges to the administration of the patent system, which are of fundamental importance for all Member States. We therefore believe that the sharing of experiences and information on these topics in fora such as SCP is highly beneficial for all Member States.

5. In addition, we found the information exchange regarding patent provisions that support technology transfer useful, since it may have a great capacity to boost economic relationships in international business and is a tool that helps fostering innovation and development. However, we want to reiterate our belief that the SCP should avoid duplicating the efforts of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) in this matter.
6. The European Union and its Member States are committed to contribute to the work of the Committee in accordance with the agreed work plan of the future meetings. We reiterate the importance of retaining the delicate balance between the topics of the SCP.
7. Chair, we are looking forward to continuing interesting discussions and constructive information sharing in the Committee and we hope to achieve results at the end of the session as well as in the future work.

Thank you.