

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Fifty-First Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 23 to October 2, 2013

Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

The Delegation of Croatia welcomes the significant efforts the WIPO has undertaken since the last Assemblies meeting in developing various fields of intellectual property system and in strengthening the global system of intellectual property legal protection.

Croatia acknowledges the progress made within many of the WIPO Committees during the last year and is particularly pleased with the successful outcome of the Marrakech Diplomatic Conference which led to the adoption of the Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. Croatia is greeting collaboration and mutual understanding between the Member States as the basis for the work in all the WIPO Committees for the purpose of achieving an effective multilateral system with the aim to create and maintain a balanced and effective international intellectual property system. Croatia strongly supports taking the same path in further norm-setting activities at the WIPO and is particularly attaching great importance to the cooperation as a way towards the adoption of the treaty on industrial designs. The Delegation of Croatia supports convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the design treaty in the nearest possible future.

Croatia's vital interest within its national intellectual property system is to maintain an efficient and reliable intellectual property protection system which is essential to the development of innovative products, services and creative works and to create an environment that promotes respect for intellectual property rights. On the 1st of July this year Croatia became the 28th member of the European Union, which is a significant step in its recent history. It is also an important milestone in the development of its intellectual property system, since on that date Croatia joined the Community Trade Mark and Community Design systems and introduced the Supplementary Protection Certificate as a new legal institute, having fully adapted other elements of the national system to the one of the European Union in the course of the accession process. Croatia's full integration into the common market of the European Union and the European professional network in the field of intellectual

property will contribute to the strengthening of the effective application of the intellectual property in terms of raising the competitiveness of the Croatian economy, and further improvement of the mechanism for fighting against counterfeiting and piracy, ensuring even more effective protection of the Croatian consumers.

Croatia is recognizing that growing counterfeiting and piracy have a negative impact on the economy, employment and security and that awareness-building, training and education could contribute to limiting this impact. To this effect joint activities of the enforcement bodies and other stakeholders have been undertaken in Croatia on raising public awareness regarding the recognition of and respect for intellectual property rights, according to the common communication strategy. A well functioning coordination mechanism among the enforcement bodies and other stakeholders plays a crucial role not only in these but also in other activities aimed at further strengthening of the enforcement of intellectual property rights in Croatia.

Croatia furthermore attaches a great importance to delivering training and education on different aspects of the intellectual property system to the public. The Academy of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia is active in developing and offering training for various user groups, based on its own initiatives and resources or in collaboration with other organizations. The Delegation expresses its appreciation for the WIPO's support and cooperation in the organization of the joint events organized this year in Zagreb: the Sub-Regional Seminar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) held in February and the Sub-Regional Workshop for Technology Transfer Offices held just a few weeks ago. We hope that the appropriate new organization model will be found which will enable continuation of the WIPO Summer School in Croatia, which was successfully running on annual basis in the period 2008 to 2012. Recently Croatia has particularly strengthened its activities in delivering intellectual property training programs to judiciary as an important element of the enforcement system, and is looking forward to explore future ways of cooperation with the WIPO in the field of mediation and arbitration. Croatia also recognizes an important role of the WIPO Academy in providing diverse programs for training and education of intellectual property experts, especially in the field of international and global issues.

Furthermore, Croatia welcomes the initiative for more coordinated approach to the promotion of different aspects of the WIPO activities in developed countries, and we invite for further rethinking of appropriate tools for cooperation on most complex issues of the development of the intellectual property system.

As a final word, the Delegation of Croatia is looking forward to continuing productive outcomes of the WIPO work in the next year, and is committed to contribute in a constructive and supportive manner to future discussions. The Delegation of Croatia would like to express its appreciation to all the Member States for their cooperation, and wishes to all the Members States fruitful deliberations and a successful 51st series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.