

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WIPO
Fifty-seventh Series of Meetings
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General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to express their compliments to the WIPO both for endeavours invested since the last Assemblies meeting to maintain the position of the Organization as the global intellectual property authority and for undertaking activities and initiatives in development of all fields of intellectual property system with a balanced approach. We are encouraging joint efforts of the WIPO Secretariat and the Member States in considering further advancement of the WIPO services within the increasingly demanding environment.

In a strive to achieve the level of the IPR protection similar to the one existing in the EU countries, Montenegrin authorities from the IPR protection and enforcement system have made a due progress. In regard with the developments that have occurred and the progress that has been achieved since the last meeting of the WIPO Assemblies in October 2016, we are pleased to inform you that the Government of Montenegro has formed a Coordination Body, composed of all public administration authorities from the IPR protection and enforcement system, thus improving significantly coordination among them.

Further, Ministry of Economy has prepared Draft Law on Amendments of Copyright and Related Rights, incorporating latest developments and EU Directives in the respective area. The Draft Law has passed through a public debate, through which the inputs and comments from various stakeholders were received and will be duly inserted into the Law wording while preparing the Proposal for the Parliament.

In this context, the Delegation of Montenegro would like to request for the WIPO support in implementing the new provisions, in particular the ones related to collective management of copyright and related rights.

Additionally, since there is a need for elaboration of a National IP Strategy, the Delegation of Montenegro would also appreciate discussion in WIPO TDC concerning possible expert support in development of the strategic document.

We wish to inform that the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro (IPOM) has recently undergone changes in status and management. Under the Regulation on Amendments of Regulation on organization and manner of work of public administration, from March 2017, the IPOM became an authority within the the Ministry of Economy. Under the Decision of the Government of Montenegro from April 2017, Ms Valentina Radulović – Šćepanović was appointed as Acting Director of the IPOM.

Last year, the IPOM developed a methodology for collection of data on IPR enforcement, and subsequently elaborated a report for 2016, wherein new manner of data presentation was applied. The methodology will provide guidelines for future work.

Let us mention the progress in the area of innovation that is reflected in the Global Innovation Index 2017, ranking Montenegro at position 48 (out of 127 economies), thus indicating a remarkable growth from the last year position 51, which is a valuable achievement of entire society.

We wish to use this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to WIPO TDC, headed by Mr Michal Svantner, for ongoing fruitful cooperation and support provided to Montenegro, and to CEBS coordination of Georgia for due care in providing WIPO funded participation of the representatives of Montenegro at regional and international conferences, a session of the WIPO Committee (SCT 37, 27-30 March 2017); and the 15th session of the Working Group for Madrid Union, 19-22 June 2017.

We expect to enhance our already excellent cooperation through the next Work Plan 2018, to be considered and agreed with the WIPO TDC.

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 57th Series of Meetings of Assemblies of Member States of the WIPO and wish WIPO DG, WIPO Assemblies Chairperson and all the participants good and successful work.