

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Geneva July 14-22, 2022

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Ms. Rovena Beqiraj, General Director of the IP Office

Mr Chairman,

Your Excellency Director General,

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Slovakia on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the excellent results achieved since the previous General Assembly Meeting, bearing in mind the extreme difficult and stressful working conditions of the COVID-19 we all had to pass through this pandemic situation.

Moreover, these lasts months we witnessed Russia's military aggression and violence against Ukraine which Albania condemns, in the strongest possible terms. By this unprecedented attack of Russia against Ukraine Russia grossly violates international norms, especially the UN Charter and obligations resulting from international humanitarian and human rights law.

As Albania expresses our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, we call on Russia to immediately stop all military actions, to refrain from the use

of force against civilians, women, and children, withdraw its military forces from Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

We are witnessing that the Russia's aggression followed by destruction of institutional capacities and infrastructure has also largely affected the IP sector and the access to knowledge, research and development in Ukraine.

Regarding the activity of the General Directorate of Intellectual Property of Albania let me emphasize some achievements we had had in the industrial property field in the period 2020-2021.

In this context, the Albanian Government has been approved the new National Strategy on Intellectual Property for the period 2022-2025 (DCM no. 350, date 26 May 2022). This cornerstone document for the IP sector development has been prepared in the close cooperation and with the technical assistance of WIPO.

The signing of the cooperation agreement regarding the WIPO – LEX Judgment project, where the Republic of Albania took part, was successfully finalised during the last General Assembly. This tripartite agreement, initially signed in Tirana between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and the School of Magistrates, represented by the Director of the School of Magistrates WIPO LEX is a digital data platform that provides free legal information on intellectual property from around the world.

The involvement of the Republic of Albania in this important project it will bring an added value to the activity of all IP judges who deals with IP issues in our country. Through a personal account they can reach any IP decision of different countries for a certain practice on IP matters. As well the decisions from the Albanian Courts will be uploaded in the WIPO Lex Database.

At the meantime, Albania has continued to promote IP rights and the importance of the IP registration regarding the various businesses / start up-s, universities, and different categories in different districts of our country. In accordance with the above-mentioned campaign, many raising awareness activities in the Republic of Albania were organized on April 26 and along the month to celebrate the World IP day with the main focus, reaching the young generation.

Another important achievement worth mentioning is the establishment of IP Training Centre which organizes activities, courses, trainings and seminars in the field of IP. The modules on IP matters tailored for different categories of

stakeholders are currently under preparation with the support of WIPO Academy. It is finalized the DL 001 and DL 101 General Course on IP and is under the process of translation and customisation the DL 302 “Trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications”

The Republic of Albania continued to participate in the series of Roundtables on the International Copyright Education, organised by WIPO in collaboration with the U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress United States of America, among others. The aim to participate in this project was to gain international experiences, in order that Albania is able to draft the necessary policies, specifically targeting the teachers and the young generation for learning and knowledge sharing on IP matters.

In this regard, Republic of Albania is part of a very important project. The Intellectual Property – Impact Certificate Course provides robust general intellectual property, (IP) knowledge alongside creativity, inventiveness, and IP teaching skills to participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. The target group consists of teachers involved in school education and national curricula development, at the primary and secondary school levels. The project is offered in collaboration with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Korean Invention Promotion Association (KIPA).

In the framework of IP Outreach, the adaptation and translation of the Guide - "Guide on IP", is drafted and adapted to the Albanian legislation for new start-ups. This guide will be distributed to the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a national workshop will be supported by WIPO on June 9, 2022, to launch the Guide. The Republic of Albania paid special attention to SMEs and in the last two years it has been very active, which has been highly appreciated by WIPO.

A national workshop was held in December 2021 on law enforcement institutions, prosecutors and judges training. The event was organized based on a hybrid way while (WIPO) attended online. During this training the Manual for Prosecutors and Judges, which has been adapted to domestic legislation regarding infringements of intellectual property rights for criminal offenses, was prepared and presented by Professor Mariana Semini. This manual which has been missing was distributed to District Courts and Prosecutions throughout Albania.

In terms of cooperation, we would like to inform that the Republic of Albania has signed Memorandums of Understanding with different partners, at national

and international level, in order to promote the IP rights and to strengthen the cooperation based on mutual relation.

At the same time, Albania is looking forward to further strengthen the cooperation with WIPO, focusing mainly on the increasing of the administrative capacity, staff training, technical assistance in the legal framework, as well as close cooperation with WIPO Academy for the part of modules and Train and Trainers.

In conclusion, let me wish every success to WIPO Assemblies and to express special thanks to WIPO staff, while reaffirming our firm commitment on further developing the intellectual property system in Albania based on a solid collaboration with the organization.

Thank you!