

ASSEMBLY OF THE WIPO MEMBER STATES

58th series of meetings

Geneva, 24 September – 2 October, 2018

General Statement of Montenegro

Dear Chairman,

The Montenegrin delegation praises the WIPO for the leadership and organization of the Meeting and a series of events that are scheduled to be held during this assembly. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for its presentation and comprehensiveness of the prepared working papers.

Montenegro gives its strong support to the policy and efforts that WIPO implements in raising the awareness about the significance and impact of intellectual property in the overall development of society. It is obvious that all the activities and initiatives undertaken by WIPO lead to strengthening of dialogue with respect to the intellectual property, both globally and through the promotion of intellectual property rights protection also in WIPO member states. Thus, intellectual property is increasingly recognized as the primary factor contributing to the economic growth and the overall social and cultural development.

Please allow me to briefly remind you of the most important, extremely successful activities implemented by the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro, in cooperation, or under the auspices of WIPO, from the previous Meeting until today.

First of all, we would like to point out with great pleasure the meeting of the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry and the Director of the Intellectual Property Office in October last year. Mr. Gurry's strong support to the envisaged activities of the Intellectual Property Office served as another confirmation that the IP Office has a vision to be persistent with. In addition, we are very grateful to Mr. Gurry for his praise and incentives delivered in a video message sent on the occasion of celebration of 10 years of IPOM's operation, as well as for the prominent close cooperation between WIPO and Montenegro and the relevance of intellectual property as a driving force of economic growth which he spoke about in an interview given to the daily "Pobjeda", on the same occasion.

In addition to this, the following activities have been implemented:

1. Seminars

Within the referred period, the IPOM has worked intensively to raise the awareness of the significance and impact of intellectual property. In cooperation with WIPO, two subregional seminars were organized, one of which on "Information on Patents and Databases", held at the end of December 2017 in Podgorica. We are in particular pleased to point out that **WIPO celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day in Montenegro**, organizing another seminar,

in cooperation with the IPOM, on "Copyright and Related Rights and Collective Management" in Podgorica on 26 April, 2018.

2. Expert support

During the previous period, through a number of visits of WIPO experts, we received expert interpretations of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights and expert support in the implementation of modern IT tools. We expect the participation of experts for the purpose of the development of the new Intellectual Property Strategy of Montenegro.

3. Application of IT tools

Since May 2018, the IPOM has been working intensively on the implementation of the IPAS for the trademark and the integration of receiving databases. The envisaged time-limit for completing this activity is the end of this year. We hope that we will also arrange further activities, such as the Madrid Module, IPAS for industrial design etc.

4. Celebrating the jubilee of the IPOM

This year, the IPOM has celebrated its first jubilee, 10 years of operation. Once again, we express our gratitude for the overall and significant support we received from WIPO on this occasion. The Deputy Director General of WIPO, Mr. Johan Sandage and Ms. Silvija Trpkovska have delivered the WIPO Prize and the WIPO Trophy for the Best Inventor and the Best Intellectual Essay on the subject of Intellectual Property, thus further enhancing this very important day for us.

5. Participation of the IPOM in activities organized by WIPO

Representatives of the IPOM have participated at the 35th session of the "Intergovernmental Committee for Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore" in Geneva; at the regional seminar "Development and Implementation of National IP Strategies" in Riga; at the sub-regional round table "Copyright and Related Rights: Beijing Treaty and Marrakesh Treaty" in Tirana; at the High Level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries along the „Belt and Road" in China.

At the invitation of the CEBS Group, and at the proposal of the IPOM, Montenegro recommended the representative of the scientific community to be a member of the Expert Working Group in the Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Thus, we gained the possibility, to promote Montenegro's knowledge at the international level through the WIPO.

Dear Chairman,

It is obvious that WIPO and Montenegro have an excellent cooperation.

Montenegro will continue to cooperate with WIPO in a devoted and operative manner, as well as with each member state, in resolving all challenges in the area of intellectual property.

Our efforts in the area of intellectual property have been recognized by the European Commission, which has been continuously recording for several years the progress of Montenegro in the implementation, protection and promotion of intellectual property rights. Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro continued work on collecting and monitoring of data on IPR enforcement based on the methodology approved by European Commission. Special emphasis was given to the work of the working group from various areas set up with the task to organize and implement joint actions aimed at preventing and suppressing the infringement of intellectual property rights.

Let us mention on the progress in the area of innovation that is reflected in the Global Innovation Index 2018, ranging Montenegro at position 52 (out of 126 economies), which also indicates the overall commitment of Montenegro in the field of intellectual property.

We expect that during the meeting of this General Assembly, a Memorandum of Understanding with WIPO will be signed. At the same time, this will serve as a highlight of our one-year joint work, between the two Assemblies, but also as a significant platform for our future, successful cooperation.

I wish a good and successful work to you and all the participants.