

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WIPO
The Sixty-First Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 21 – 25, 2020

General Statement of the Delegation of Montenegro

The Delegation of Montenegro wishes to express compliments to the WIPO for endeavours invested to maintain the position of the Organization as the global intellectual property leader. 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. The achievements of the WIPO in the period of corona virus pandemic are even more valued since the work of the Organization had to be adapted to the circumstances of a global health threat which is a challenge that the WIPO successfully copes with through introducing due measures to provide for uninterrupted work of the Organization. We commend organization of the Sixtieth Series of Assemblies of the Member States of the WIPO, in such conditions, that was held May 7 – 8, 2020, through written procedure, that was supported by Montenegro.

We are pleased to inform you that in the period from the WIPO Assemblies in October 2019 to September 2020, the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro has had a fruitful cooperation with the Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) which resulted from the participation of the Delegation of Montenegro, headed by the Minister of Economy, Ms Dragica Sekulic, at the 2019 Assemblies and the meeting with Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of the WIPO. The activities agreed on that occasion, and during the meeting with the representatives of the WIPO TDC, have been conducted regularly. The most important support was provided to the Ministry of Economy in the development of the National Strategy of Intellectual Property 2021 – 2024. After WIPO had accepted our Request for support in elaboration of the National IP Strategy, the local and international experts were hired while also a domestic Working Group, composed of the representatives of all IPR authorities from Montenegro, was formed by the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro. We had e-meetings with the WIPO TDC and the experts when we discussed and accepted the approach and the plan how to proceed. The Ministry of Economy of Montenegro provided all required inputs from IPR authorities and IPR community from Montenegro (Universities, and others). On the basis of the inputs, local expert elaborated Preliminary Desk Research Report, a good quality document which serves as a ground for subsequent activities in the process of the development of the Strategy. The WIPO experts made a Questionnaire for all Montenegrin IPR community that is involved in the process. Working Group gathered the responses and submitted them to the WIPO. Unfortunately, due to certain unexpected circumstances, the process of elaboration of the Strategy will have to undergo some changes but they will not hinder the development of the strategic document.

In addition, our representatives participated at seminars organized by the WIPO, in cooperation with national IP offices, i.e.: International Symposium on raising awareness on intellectual property for the Belt and Road countries, organized by the WIPO and the National Intellectual

Property Administration of the Republic of China (CNIPA), held in Zhuhai, China, 5-6 November 2019; "Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Strategy and Innovation Development", organized by the WIPO and the Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Uzbekistan (AIPU), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 13-14 November 2019; "Sub-regional Seminar on Patent Information and Data Bases", organized by the WIPO in cooperation with the State Intellectual Property Office of North Macedonia, in Skopje, on 3 December 2019. Further, a representative of the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro participated at International Conference "Intellectual Property for the EU in the World Full of Challenges", Zagreb, Croatia, 19-20 February 2020.

What we are especially proud of is a Seminar "WIPO Marrakesh Treaty", organized jointly by the WIPO and the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro, that was held in Podgorica, on 17 December 2019. The seminar attracted great attention of professional and wider public, as well as of Montenegrin media.

Please note that the Government of Montenegro has adopted the Proposal of the Law on Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty which is currently in the Parliamentary procedure.

The WIPO provided precious support to Montenegro in the area of copyright and related right in the part that is related to implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, together with the legislative support in relation to the collective management of rights.

We are glad to be able to report also that the IP staff of the Ministry of Economy participated at Webinars organized by the WIPO. It is our standpoint that this kind of acquiring knowledge and skills, under the current circumstances and also in general, is a great opportunity for our IP staff to stay duly informed on various topics and also to get guidelines for their daily work.

We expect to enhance our already excellent cooperation through the next Work Plan 2021, to be considered and agreed with the WIPO TDC. We are committed also to our participation in the work of the CEBS Group.

We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate to Mr Daren Tang, newly elected Director General of the WIPO, and to wish him success in his work. We are convinced that under his able leadership WIPO will continue to achieve its high goals and keep its position of a leading global IP organization. Please be assured that Mr Tang will find Montenegro as a good and fully reliable partner.

Let us express our appreciation and deepest gratitude to Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of the WIPO, for his devoted work to the benefit of the Organization and all its Member States, and in particular for his commitment to regular and most fruitful cooperation with Montenegro. Dr Gurry, in person, was sincerely devoted to excellent relation with our country. High level meetings between Dr Gurry and our highest officials resulted in various and numerous activities that were conducted with due attention from both sides and produced sustainable and long-term results that contributed greatly to increased level of protection of IPRs in our country.

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 61st 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.