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GREECE

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

63rd Series of Meetings

Geneva, July 15th, 2022

General Statement (Agenda item 4)

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Madam Chair we are pleased to see you presiding and are confident that you will lead these General Assembly to a successful outcome. We also thank Director General Tang for his commitment in pursuing WIPO's strategic goals as well as the WIPO Secretariat for preparing these Assemblies.

Our delegation aligns with the statements delivered by group B as well as those of the European Union and its member states. Despite the ongoing pandemic and the volatility of markets, a prudent management of WIPO resources enabled a positive financial result. The PCT and Madrid systems remain robust contributing to the surplus of the Organisation. Ensuring an IP system that delivers high quality services and is easily accessible to users should continue to guide efforts. Since intellectual property has a pivotal role in the technological and economic development of societies, it is imperative to secure a balanced system and facilitate an enabling environment.

The IP system domestically continued to support innovation and creativity, further strengthening an environment conducive to growth. Patent filings before the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) increased by 20%. This increase was mainly due to a lower search fee by 33% subsidized by OBI, which

facilitated the entry to the patent system. The transitional period for the initiation of trademark filings before OBI, following the transfer of competence from the Ministry of Development and Investments, was successfully concluded, enabling operations as of May 17, 2022. Digitalization of the filing procedure and improvement of the IT infrastructure remained a priority for the effective management of IP titles and for easy access to the IP system. Several activities and educational programs were organized to raise awareness on the importance of IPRs and their enforcement. Towards these efforts Thessalonica and the island of Mykonos joined EUIPO's network of "Authenticities" in the fight against counterfeiting.

The Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO), which constitutes the competent national authority for copyright and related rights issues, among its multiple competences, significantly contributed to the further modernization of the national law under the aim of effectively tackling piracy in the digital environment. Since December 2021, the Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringements on the Internet -which constitutes the National Administrative Enforcement Authority- has ordered the blocking of access to 608 domain names and 587 IP Addresses in relation to live streaming TV events - sport events. In respect of copyright and related rights' subject matter of protection, the blocking of access has been ordered to more than 590 domain names. It should be noted, that the Committee is fully supported by the IT and legal experts of the HCO, while Greece is an official contributor to the WIPO's BRIP Database.

Moreover, the HCO continues its pedagogical role since it has successfully accomplished -both in hybrid and on - site format- a series of educational programs concerning the lawful use of protected content on the Internet. In addition, it runs a new project under the title 'Respect' along with Spain and Cyprus through various initiatives under the aim of broadly communicating the principles of copyright law.

In addition, the HCO constantly enhances the Greek portal of the EU “Agorateka” initiative providing for a wide range of lawful sources in respect of creative content operating as such as an alternative system for the combatting of piracy under the aim of achieving a high level of protection for copyright and related rights holders.

In relation to enforcement, the Interagency for Market Control (DI.M.E.A.) in cooperation and coordination with Greek IP Enforcement Authorities delivered notable results against the combat of counterfeiting: 34.340 controls were carried out from August 2020 to June 2022, which resulted to 455.314 seized counterfeit items and imposed fines of 4.296.400 €.

Closing, our delegation remains committed to contribute constructively to the discussions. Thank you Madam Chair.