

Statement by the delegation of the Czech Republic  
at the Assembly Meetings of the Member States of WIPO,  
3 to 11 October, 2016

Mr.Chairman,

The Czech delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States.

We also thank to Director General and the Secretariat for their work and for preparing comprehensive documents for this meeting.

The Czech Republic would like to express its continued support to the role of WIPO as the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. We attach great importance to the efficient and accessible intellectual property system for the protection of innovations and creativity, for economic and social development and for competitiveness. We continue to support all WIPO's activities and their further improvement in accordance with the needs of users of intellectual property system and reflecting new developments.

We note with satisfaction the Program Performance Report for 2014/2015 and acknowledge the progress achieved. We also note that further work is needed to fulfil remaining targets.

The Czech delegation welcomes the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for WIPO for 2016-2021 and appreciates the overall orientation and strategies for the next period as outlined in this document.

We further welcome the continued geographical expansion of the global intellectual protection systems, in particular the PCT system and the Madrid system for the international registration of marks, which celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and the growing demand for services delivered by WIPO in this field. We also welcome the expansion of the Hague system for the international registration of designs. We highly appreciate the quality of services currently provided by WIPO to the users of the IP rights system. In this connection, we fully support activities carried out by the WIPO management led by the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry.

Moreover, the Czech Republic attaches great importance to the Lisbon Union for international registration of appellations of origin. We firmly believe that the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, which modernizes this international system, will contribute to its geographical expansion and financial sustainability. We support an intensive promotion of the Lisbon system as one of important and necessary tools in order to attract new contracting states.

The Czech delegation wishes to confirm its readiness to make an appropriate financial contribution in order to eliminate the current biennial deficit of the Lisbon Union in accordance with the decision of the Lisbon Union Assembly of 2015.

We note with some disappointment the outcome of the last sessions of the SCT concerning DLT. We continue to share the view that substantive texts for Design Law Treaty are almost finalized for convening of the diplomatic conference for its adoption as soon as possible, and that further discussion in the SCT is not necessary. We also share the view that the disclosure requirement relates to the patent system and should be discussed in IGC instead.

The Czech delegation regrets that lingering stalemate continues in the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We still believe that there is a possibility to find a way to reach an agreement on the outstanding issues and to convene a diplomatic conference on the protection of broadcasting organizations in the next biennium. The Czech delegation also continues to support further discussions and exchange of information on national legislation and best practices in the field of exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights. The Czech delegation also supports efforts for a new topic - the resale right – to be included on the agenda of the SCCR.

We continue to support the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, in particular the improvement of discussions regarding international patent harmonization.

The Czech Republic remains committed to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, in accordance with its mandate.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of the activities of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property and continue to support its work.

The Czech delegation expresses continued support for the work of Advisory Committee on Enforcement. We welcome the growing engagements of the Member States from all regions in the ACE agenda.

In conclusion, let us briefly highlight and appreciate WIPO activities concerning IP teaching and education, the WIPO Academy, IP policies for universities and public research institutions. We attach great importance to teaching intellectual property and the commercialization of innovations. This year, the Czech Industrial Property Office organized in Prague, in close cooperation with WIPO, a sub-regional seminar “Intellectual Property Policies in Universities and Research Institutions” and “WIPO Inter-Regional TTO Meeting - Working Together on Academic IP Commercialization in the Region” organized also in collaboration with the Metropolitan University of Prague. We take this opportunity to express many thanks to the Secretariat and in particular to Mr. Michal Svantner, Director, Department for Transition and Developed Countries (TDC) for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to us.

The Czech authorities cooperate with WIPO as regards misleading offers/ invoices, take measures and raise awareness of the applicants, IP rights holders and other stakeholders about these fraudulent practices, to avoid their negative effects.

The Czech delegation would like to express its readiness to continue close cooperation with WIPO in the future.

Thank you.