

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

56th Series of Meetings

Geneva, Switzerland

October 3-11, 2016

General Statement of DENMARK

Denmark congratulates the chairmanship on its election. We also thank DG Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for all their preparatory work for these assemblies and the timely and comprehensive working documents.

Global economy is confronted with significant challenges. In this light innovation is more than ever instrumental for creating and driving renewed economic growth. Therefore initiatives are needed to increase research and development and to ensure, that there is a proper incentive to foster such measures.

Against this background Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a primary instrument in supporting innovation for the benefit of development. WIPO plays a key role as this organization is established to promote the protection of IPR globally through cooperation between states as prescribed in article 3 of the WIPO Convention.

In this context, efforts must continuously be made to ensure that WIPO deliver cost-efficient IP services that are fit for purpose and thus provide users with premier products.

Denmark acknowledges WIPO's efforts for improving the global IP systems including PCT and Madrid and the IT services for users and offices alike. We welcome the amendments to benefit users, and we congratulate WIPO for increasing efficiency in its operations.

Normative work and method of working

Denmark takes note of the work in the norm-setting committees. We would like to add a few remarks to the ongoing work:

In relation to the Design Law Formality Treaty it is disappointing that the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications has been unable to come to an agreement. Denmark supported the text achieved in 2014 which in our view was sufficient mature for a Diplomatic Conference.

Denmark highly appreciates the information exchange in the Advisory Committee on Enforcement in order to combat IPR infringements.

With regards to the work method of the committees we have a number of general observations and considerations:

National offices pay constantly attention on performance and tangible results. Cost-benefit analyses are carried out on a regular basis for tasks. This delegation note modest progress in the work of the standing committees and regret the limited outcome on substantive issues.

We believe it is time to consider the working methods in WIPO foras. Is it effective and timely to have standing committees? Should we move toward more ad hoc working committees at technical expert levels? Would it be beneficial to elect chairs in advance of meetings to provide sufficient time for them to prepare? We believe an important element would be to separate political issues from the technical expert level. By addressing the relevant issues at the relevant level we foresee more efficient meetings and results for the benefit of all stakeholders.

We welcome the effort of the Secretariat in implementing the Development Agenda (DA). WIPO has an important role to play in bringing the issue of IP to the attention to all stakeholders regardless of level of development.

The inclusion of the DA recommendations must be seen in conjunction with the overall goal of WIPO as stated in the WIPO Convention, “to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states”.

Implementation of the DA recommendations shall be done as an integral part of efforts promoting the overall goal of WIPO.

National Danish Highlights on IP

We would like to briefly inform about a few IP highlights in Denmark:

The Danish Patent and Trademark Office has established a regional IP office in the western part of Denmark (Jutland) in order to better service the growth and research intensive companies in this region of Denmark.

The Ministerial Network for Anti-Counterfeiting consisting of 12 governmental agencies led by the Danish Patent and Trademark Office continues its efforts for combatting counterfeiting. A large

awareness campaign was launched on 8 June 2016 (World Anti-Counterfeiting Day) including actions in Copenhagen Airport and a number of central train stations in the Copenhagen area.

The Danish Patent and Trademark Office in cooperation with the Danish Industry Foundation launched the IPR Business Insight project. The aim of the project is to enable Danish companies to better benefit from the opportunities in intellectual property rights. Activities include, inter alia, developing an IPR tool for innovation agents who review innovation in SME's, to upgrade practising accountants knowledge of business perspectives in relation to IPR, and seminars for SME's with focus on specific IPR needs within selected business sectors.

The Nordic Patent Institute (NPI) – a PCT search- and examination authority founded by Iceland, Norway and Denmark – continued to deliver high quality products to its applicants in 2016. The Nordic Patent Institute continues to be an active member of various WIPO foras dealing with PCT and patents in general, in particular the Meeting of International Authorities (MIA) and the PCT Working Group.

Closing remarks

Denmark underlines its continuing commitment to contribute in a positive, constructive and pragmatic manner to WIPO and its bodies.

The efficient functioning of WIPO's global IP services is important for Danish users and we wish to ensure that WIPO strive to deliver world-class services.

Thank you!