

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Fifty-Eight Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 24 to October 2, 2018
Agenda item 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The Delegation of Croatia wishes to express its appreciation for efforts and activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization in developing and strengthening the international system of intellectual property that promotes innovation and creativity, thus making the incentives for economic growth, social welfare and environmental preservation. This delegation welcomes significant efforts the WIPO is undertaking in providing effective functioning of the international intellectual property registration and filing systems administrated by the International Bureau with the continuously growing numbers of filings.

Croatia acknowledges positive developments within various WIPO Committees since the last Assemblies, especially within the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) regarding the treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations. We hope that after some tuning we will finally reach agreement on a treaty that will provide an adequate and effective response to the new technological challenges. However, we are yet hoping to see more constructive approach of delegations in the future work at the WIPO that would allow accomplishing the progress in the mature norm-setting activities, in particular regarding the adoption of the Design Law Treaty that provides equal benefits to users of all Member States. Thus, we express our regrets that still no consensus has been reached on the adoption of this treaty on formalities of industrial designs' protection.

The Delegation of Croatia wishes to thank the WIPO for an outstanding cooperation and assistance delivered since the last Assemblies regarding the promotion of intellectual property rights in Croatia, especially within the following activities.

First, we use this opportunity to inform the forum that as of March this year Croatia has modernized its electronic system for filing PCT applications at the State Intellectual Property Office by introducing the ePCT system. Besides technical assistance in setting up the system a workshop for patent attorneys for filing applications through new system was organized in co-operation with the WIPO.

Furthermore, Croatia highly values trainings, education and open discussions on different aspects of the intellectual property delivered to and held with professionals and general public. Thus, we appreciate WIPO's support in organizing the national seminar on intellectual property for journalists with the aim of raising awareness among journalists about key issues of the intellectual property system and its role in modern society.

Likewise, WIPO's publication "Managing IP in the Advertising Industry" was issued in Croatian translation, adapted to the needs and practice in Croatia and complemented by current information on the global and Croatian advertising industry, in co-operation with the

Croatian Association of Communications Agencies (HURA). This publication will be a valuable tool in raising awareness of the importance of intellectual property protection and its management in the advertising industry in Croatia.

Croatia also joined marking of this year World IP Day by organizing a public discussion on work and contribution of women to science, innovation, art, technology and the role of IP system as a means to support their achievements.

We would also like to reiterate our commitment to the fight against the worrying problem of counterfeiting and piracy in digital environment. To that effect, in 2017 for the first time and repeatedly this year, we organized competitions and events promoting the importance of creativity and innovation as well as of the respect of other people's work aimed at youth and adolescents living in the perceived free-for-all digital world. Last year's competition for the best literary work, video work, composition, fine art work or cartoon organized in co-operation with the WIPO was a great success and this year we are expecting even wider response.

Last but not least, a localized version of the distance learning course General Intellectual Property Course in Croatian, regularly held in cooperation with the WIPO Academy during last four years, continues to be in high demand and reaching admission quotas almost immediately upon opening. So far hundreds of Croatian speaking attendees, not only from Croatia but also from abroad, have completed this course.

In conclusion, we would like to draw attention to the "Multisensory Exhibition for the Blind and Visually Impaired Persons", held on the occasion of this Assemblies meeting and organized by the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the WIPO. This exhibition underpins this year's deposition of the instrument of ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in the General Assembly by the European Union, with Croatia being one of the Member States of the Union. The objective of this exhibition is to demonstrate how blind and visually impaired persons can be enabled to experience the work of art from the point of view of its form and content. The exhibition displays the arrangement of the Tactile Gallery that makes an important part of the permanent display of the Modern Gallery in Zagreb, as the first multisensory gallery in this part of Europe dedicated to the blind and visually impaired persons. We would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation and gratitude to the Director General of the WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, for his support and participation in the opening ceremony of this exhibition taking place on Friday, September 28, 2018 at 1 p.m.

The Delegation of Croatia would like to express our appreciation to all the Member States for their cooperation, and wishes to all the Members States fruitful deliberations and a successful 58th series of meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

(Zagreb, September 2018)