

56th WIPO General Assemblies, October 2016– Country Statement – Romania

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Delegation of Romania, I would like to congratulate you, as well as your Vice-Chairs and the other officers, on your election and to wish you a most successful session.

Romania aligns itself to the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States and to the statement presented by the Republic of Latvia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and would like to reaffirm its commitment to the development of the intellectual property system and to advancing the WIPO agenda, in all of its aspects.

Romania would also like to thank the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry, and the staff of WIPO, for their continuous efforts in the benefit of the Organization and for the qualitative documents prepared for this series of meetings.

Concerning the WIPO normative agenda, Romania took note of the entry into force of the Marrakech treaty, as a most recent WIPO achievement, and hopes that the international IP framework will continue to ensure the right balance between right holders' interests and the general public interest.

Romania attaches great importance to the works of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrials Designs and Geographic Indications (SCT) and hopes that a consensus will be reached for holding a Diplomatic Conference, with a view to adopting a Treaty in the field of industrial designs, next year. Simplifying and harmonizing the registration formalities for industrial designs will profit both applicants and the national IP offices.

As regards the activity of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), Romania would like to warmly thank all WIPO member states for the cooperation and support provided to the Romanian chairmanship of the SCP. Moreover, this delegation is appreciative of the agreement reached, during its 24th session, on the future work. SCP is the only international forum dealing with issues regarding patents and therefore, Romania strongly supports the progress of its works.

With regard to the activity of the Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, Romania recognizes the importance of the genetic resources and of the traditional knowledge. Moreover, it considers that the political objective should be to increase the transparency of the patent system and within this scope, the request of disclosure of the origin or genetic source could be accepted (with the mention that the request of disclosure should be limited only to patents).

As regards the Standing Committee for Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), convening a Diplomatic Conference on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, which would be fully adapted to the technological realities of the 21st century, is of great interest to us. Likewise, we encourage the exchange of best practices on limitations and exceptions included on SCCR agenda and we restate our openness for exploring new topics.

Romania also closely follows the debates within the Advisory Committee on IP Enforcement (ACE) and reaffirms its commitment to continuing the fight against the phenomena of counterfeiting and piracy.

Mr. President,

Romania has presented this year a proposal to host a WIPO sub-regional external office, in Bucharest, starting with the 2016-2017 biennium. The creation of such an Office would give a boost to the development of the IP system in the sub-region and to the promotion of WIPO services, as well as to the economic, social and cultural development of the countries, taking into account the strong connection between IP and development. Romania considers that any decision on this topic should be based on the need for a balanced geographical repartition of the WIPO External Offices, as stated in the Guiding Principles that were agreed by all Member States, at the previous GA meeting. We would also like to convey our deep thanks to all the countries that expressed support for our proposal.

Mr. President,

The education activity plays a major role in Romania, as a means to raise awareness among the young generation of the importance of respecting and protecting the IP rights. We introduced an optional course on Intellectual Property in the Romanian high-school curricula. We would like to thank WIPO for the support granted to this project and to express our commitment to continuing working with the Organization in this field.

In conclusion, Romania strongly hopes in a successful meeting that will allow WIPO and its member states to further the promotion of the intellectual property system.

Thank you, Mr. President.