

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Geneva July 6-14, 2023

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Ms. Rovená Beqiraj, General Director of the IP Office

Mr Chairman,

Your Excellency Director General,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Albania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Poland on behalf of the CEBS Group.

We congratulate the Director General and WIPO staff for the excellent results achieved since the previous General Assembly Meeting.

The Russian war against Ukraine has had unquestionably negative impact on the geopolitical situation, shaking the economic stability globally and weakening our unprecedented efforts for post COVID-19 pandemic recovery. Long-term international assistance will be necessary for a full recovery and return to normality. The Russian aggression, followed by destruction of institutional capacities and infrastructure, has largely affected also IP area and access to knowledge, research and development in Ukraine.

Albania condemns, in the strongest possible terms this unprecedented and unprovoked attack against Ukraine, which grossly violates the UN Charter, international law and humanitarian and human rights law.

On behalf of the Republic of Albania let me reiterate our continuous support and solidarity with Ukraine and Ukrainian people.

Regarding the developments in the field of intellectual property of the Republic of Albania let us emphasize some achievements we have had in this field in the period July 2022- July 2023.

The Law No 37/2022 “On some amendments to the Law No 35/2016 “On copyright and other related rights” was adopted by the Albanian Parliament on 14 April 2022.

The Law approximates further the EU acquis and regulates the functioning of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs).

In terms of plans for the further alignment of the legislation, the Copyright Directorate has already programed two concrete activities:

- Preparation of a feasibility study and comparison of the EU and existing national environmental legislation to determine the current status of alignment and the appropriate national response to the EU legislation and the capacities of the Copyright Directorate under the Ministry of Culture and the expectations for each stakeholder in the digital environment and copyright. This study will take place in April 2023.
- On 3 May 2023, the Ministry of Culture through the Copyright Directorate organized a workshop with international experts, on copyright in the digital environment.

In the industrial property field, addressing the recommendation of the EC services on the further approximation of the EU acquis on industrial property rights and aiming to modernize the legal framework, the Republic of Albania has undertaken a legal reform as stipulated in the National Plan for European Integration 2023 – 2025, and as planned in the National Strategy of Intellectual Property 2022 – 2025. This reform consists on the drafting and adoption of special laws related to IP objects (a separate law for each object of IP: trademarks, patents and utility models, industrial design, geographical indications /appellation of origin) which will be fully aligned with the EU acquis. This reform has started in 2022 and will be completed in 2025. Technical assistance will be provided by the international partners after the process is initiated.

The two first drafts concretely, the draft Law “On patents” and the draft Law “On trademarks” are sent for comments to EUIPO, EPO and WIPO. After the reflection of their comments, the two draft laws will be published for public consultation.

The Albanian Government has approved the National Strategy on Intellectual Property for the period 2022-2025 (DCM no. 350, date 26 May 2022). A National Workshop was held in October 2022 for the implementation of the National Strategy on IP by all the stakeholders in close cooperation and with the technical assistance of WIPO.

A cooperation agreement regarding the WIPO – General Directorate of Industrial Property and Magistrate School is going to be signed in order to have a continuous cooperation and training for the newly appointed magistrates of our country.

At the meantime, Albania has continued to promote either IP rights and the importance of the IP registration of the various businesses / start up-s, universities, and different categories in different districts of our country. In accordance with the above-mentioned campaign, many raising awareness activities were organized in the country on April to celebrate the World IP Day with the main focus to reach the young generation. In this context the publication “IP and Tourism” has been translated in Albanian language and promotional events to launch this publication have been undertaken.

One of the most important tools – IP PRE diagnosis tool – has been launched by WIPO and the Republic of Albania and is currently listed in the WIPO website in Albanian language. This tool is going to be promoted through other activities by Albania.

The Intellectual Property – Impact Certificate Course provides robust general intellectual property, (IP) knowledge alongside creativity, inventiveness and IP teaching skills to participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. The target group consists of teachers involved in school education and national curricula development, at the primary and secondary school levels. The project is offered in collaboration with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Korean Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) and will start later of this year for the Republic of Albania. Meantime, a project “Train the Trainers” for teachers is going to be implemented by the Republic of Albania, as one of the main recommendations made by WIPO experts.

Albania is looking forward to further strengthening the cooperation with WIPO, focusing mainly on the increasing of the administrative capacity, staff training, technical assistance in the legal framework, as well as close cooperation with WIPO Academy for the part of modules and Train and Trainers.

In conclusion, let me extend our wishes for every success to WIPO Assemblies and our special thanks to WIPO staff; let me reaffirm also our firm commitment to further develop the intellectual property system in Albania based on a solid collaboration with the organization.

Thank you!