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Subject: Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of
WIPO (Geneva, 30 September – 9 October 2019)
- Final EU/Member States statements

Delegations will find attached, for information, the statements delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the above-mentioned WIPO meetings.

Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

(Geneva, 30 September – 9 October 2019)

General/Opening Statement

Agenda Item 5

Chair,

I am honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, as Finland is presiding the Council of the European Union until the end of this year.

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for your excellent preparation of this General Assembly. We are confident that under your leadership and constructive approach to the difficult topics and issues at hand we can reach positive results and make this General Assembly a success. We also thank the WIPO secretariat for its preparation work.

2. The protection and promotion of intellectual property rights are key priorities for the European Union and its Member States. In our increasingly knowledge-based economies, IP is a key lever to boost innovations, competitiveness and growth. As our economies and societies are changing, so must the world of IP. For instance, artificial intelligence is revolutionizing every aspect of life and work in the IP world. It exposes our IP system to various new challenges. In addition, data and the use of data are also becoming increasingly relevant to the IP sector. Within Europe, we are analysing these developments with care with a view to defining appropriate policy responses. We are pleased to note that these issues are high on the agenda of WIPO and many of its committees as well, and will continue to actively engage in these discussions. Sustainability is also high on the political agenda in Europe. We will need to see how our IP policies can best support the turn to a greener economy and society. In addition, goods and services offered via Internet and traditional marketplaces that violate IP rights of others concern all citizens, consumers, businesses and societies. The enforcement and awareness-raising of IP rights will therefore also remain of utmost importance to the EU and its Member States.
3. The World Intellectual Property Organization is a central institution for developing a global IP infrastructure. We are of the opinion that it is important to develop an internationally balanced system of protection for all categories of intellectual property rights. The systems of PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon are the core unions. WIPO is also a unique forum for the discussion of global IP policy in which new norms are being prepared and best practices shared. While the normative work of WIPO is important for the functioning of the current global IP system, new improvements should be achieved.
4. With regard to the membership of WIPO treaties, we are pleased to confirm that the EU has made substantial progress on its way to becoming a contracting Party to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The legislative procedure for the adoption of the legal acts will soon be concluded. Therefore, we are confident that the EU will be able to deposit its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act with WIPO still before the end of this year.

5. Turning to the normative work of WIPO, a crucial issue that we would like to see progressing at this General Assembly is the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations. We aim for a treaty responding to the present and future needs of broadcasting organizations. The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) agreed in April on a recommendation to this Assembly on continuing its work towards convening a diplomatic conference, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium. The EU and its Member States are of the opinion that these discussions should be focused and result-oriented. We are hopeful that this will allow the Committee to reach a level of consensus and maturity of the text that would allow us to meet the timeframe envisaged in the recommendation.
6. Another area of the normative agenda where we would like to see progress is the Design Law Treaty. The European Union and its Member States would like to reiterate the opinion that the text of the Design Law Treaty is ripe for convening of a diplomatic conference on the adoption of this treaty. The Treaty would greatly benefit all designers around the world. In addition, the credibility of WIPO's legislative agenda would benefit from a successful conclusion of this long-awaited treaty. Therefore, we expect this General Assembly to continue to pave the way towards the convening of a Diplomatic Conference.
7. Regarding the outstanding issue of a proposal to include a disclosure requirement, we remain concerned that this would act against the aim of harmonizing and simplifying design registration formalities. Instead of inserting a disclosure requirement in the DLT, we consider that the WIPO IGC is the appropriate forum to explore the underlying issues. In the light of ongoing discussions in the IGC and the possibility of finding a more thoroughly contemplated solution in that specialised committee, we invite the proponents to reconsider their proposal for a disclosure requirement in the DLT.
8. The EU and its Member States are ready to participate actively and open-mindedly in discussions in order to overcome the remaining obstacles to convening a diplomatic conference.

9. As to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), the EU and its Member States welcomed that at its 40th session the IGC managed to reach consensus on a recommendation to this General Assembly on the terms of its new Mandate and Work Program. We reiterate our support for the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2020/2021 on the terms and according to the program set out by IGC 40. We remain engaged in continuing negotiations on all three topics and look forward to participating constructively in the work of the IGC under the new mandate. Furthermore, we are happy to announce that two of our Member States, Finland and Germany, have made the pledges to contribute 15 000 euros each to the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities, thus supporting the participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the IGC also in the future.
10. Regarding the work of other WIPO committees and working groups, we would like to express our satisfaction with the constructive and fact-based work that has taken place in the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP). This enhances mutual understanding of different national patent systems and provides ideas for better co-operation. We hope that future discussions will help analyse relevant differences in patent systems, which hinder trade and common development in this area.
11. The EU and its Member States welcome the continued progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) during its last two sessions. We look forward to giving our contributions to ongoing work in all three key areas discussed in the SCT.

12. The European Union and its Member States reiterate our commitment to actively and constructively participate in a solution-oriented manner in the discussions taking place during this General Assembly. We hope for a positive and co-operative atmosphere while solving together complex IP matters and other issues ahead of us. In this spirit, we will be able to achieve progress with the important issues on the agenda and WIPO will maintain its global relevance.

Thank you.

Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

Agenda Item 15

Doc. WO/GA/51/5

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Chair of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) for his efforts in facilitating engagement and progress in the work of the Committee. We would like to also thank the WIPO Secretariat for all the preparatory work done over the course of the year.
2. The EU and its Member States continue to be an active participant in the discussions on the Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations. In our view, this topic and discussions are of great importance and should ultimately result in a meaningful treaty which efficiently responds to the current but also future needs of broadcasting organisations. We thank the Chair for further consolidating his text on definitions, object of protection, rights to be granted and other issues.
3. The EU and its Member States are supportive of the recommendation by the SCCR to the General Assembly on this topic. We would suggest that in order to ensure progress on this important and long-standing issue, a list of outstanding issues should be established, together with a roadmap on future work on the treaty in the SCCR. Hopefully, this will allow the Committee to reach a level of consensus and maturity of the text that would lead us to the convening of a diplomatic conference within the timeframe envisaged in the recommendation.

4. The EU and its Member States remain furthermore committed to pursue fruitful discussions on exceptions and limitations. We congratulate the Chair and the Secretariat on the work carried out in the context of the action plans under these respective agenda items, in particular the three regional seminars conducted over the course of this year. We look forward to hearing more about their outcome at the upcoming International Conference on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries, Archives, Museums and Educational and Research Institutions, ahead of SCCR 39. More generally, we are convinced that the work carried out in the context of the action plans will serve as a good basis for deepening our understanding of challenges faced by libraries, archives, museums as well as educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities and serve as a useful tool and framework for future work. This view is based on the understanding, as expressed consistently by the EU and its Member States that the intention of the action plans is not to undertake any normative work. As the recent reports of this Committee will show, views are rather divergent on this topic. A meaningful outcome of the work under these agenda items could therefore in our view be guidance to Member States regarding best practices, taking advantage also of the flexibility of the international copyright legal framework to adopt, maintain or update national exceptions that adequately respond to local needs and traditions.

5. The EU and its Member States would like to reiterate that some of the agenda items of the SCCR have by now been discussed for a substantial period of time without a tangible outcome, whereas at the same time there have been proposals to reflect upon the future agenda of the Committee. Against this background, the EU and its Member States, along with many other delegations, would be in favour of including the topic of the Author's Resale Right (droit de suite) on the permanent agenda of the SCCR. In any event, and when reflecting upon the future agenda, our view is that issues of common interest need to be identified in a concrete manner and the objective of our discussions agreed at the start so as to ensure the best chances for success.

Thank you.

Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

Agenda Item 16

Doc. WO/GA/51/6

Chair,

1. I am speaking on behalf the European Union and its Member States. We would like to thank the Chairs, the WIPO secretariat and the members of the Committee of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents for the smooth work and progress made since the last General Assembly. There have been constructive discussions and developments on the five main topics on the agenda of the SCP, i.e. 1) the quality of patents; 2) client-attorney privilege; 3) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; 4) transfer of technology, and 5) patents and health.
2. The quality of patents including opposition systems is of particular importance to us. High quality patents can guarantee the proper balance between the interests of inventors, industry and other stakeholders on one hand and of the society on the other hand. We will continue to advance and contribute to this work, in particular the topic of AI. Apart from the mere technical quality of patents, we continue to believe that the SCP should also serve as a venue for discussions about the existing differences of patent law systems and substantive patent law in the future.
3. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to the topic of client-patent attorney privilege, in particular the recognition of foreign patent advisors' privilege. We are of the opinion that the same protection should be given to communications between a client and its foreign patent advisor as is applicable under national law between a client and its national patent attorney. We look forward to continuing discussion on this topic in the coming sessions.

4. In addition, the information exchange regarding patent provisions that support technology transfer is of high interest for us, keeping in mind that the SCP should avoid duplicating the efforts of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) in this respect.
5. Intellectual property rights such as patents incentivize innovation and lead to new and improved treatments, thus contributing to better health for all. During the last year, the SCP has addressed the topic of patents and health extensively. We welcome the work of the Committee in the field of capacity building activities, notably in the area of negotiations of licensing agreements. Capacity building, increasing transparency and awareness raising are promising initiatives that can help foster uptake of innovations to benefit of all. With respect to the mandate of the SCP, we would like to recall that we cannot go beyond its mandate and that we need to continue to reflect a balanced approach, taking into account the various factors of relevance to patents and health.
6. While the European Union and its Member States regard all topics on the agenda of the Committee important, we would like to reiterate our special interest in enhancing international cooperation and improving the technical knowledge on patentability requirements. Ensuring a more efficient, effective and higher quality patent system in all Member States is a way to remove trade obstacles and contribute to economic prosperity.
7. The European Union and its Member States are committed to contribute to the work of the Committee in accordance with the agreed work plan of the future meetings. We look forward to continuing the interesting discussions and information sharing in the SCP and hope to achieve tangible results in the future.

Thank you.

Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

Agenda Item 17

Doc. WO/GA/51/7

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the continued progress made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) during its last two sessions. We note with appreciation that the SCT moved forward on all key topics and delegations maintained a constructive spirit. As to trade marks, we held intense discussions and made some progress in seeking a compromise solution on the topic of country names. As regards designs, we agreed on a more defined scope of future work concerning Graphical User Interface designs and embarked on exploring the topic of international exhibitions. We are hopeful that in the end, step-by-step progress on geographical indications can also lead to clear and tangible results within the SCT mandate and framework that have a positive impact on stakeholders. We would like to reiterate that the SCT should not aim to interpret or revise provisions of the Lisbon Agreement or the Geneva Act.
2. With regard to trademarks, the Committee has been discussing the protection of country names against registration and use as trademarks. At its 40th session the SCT processed the conclusions reached on the basis of a fruitful information session on divergent office practices. Discussions started on a new compromise proposal by 12 countries, and continued at SCT 41 on the basis of revised proposals prepared by the co-sponsors. Discussions also started on another proposal on “nation brands”, and we can expect two revised proposals for the next SCT session. We remain open to participate in continued discussions on all proposals on the table, in particular as regards the policy rationales as set out in document SCT/41/6. We look forward to providing our comments at the next session of the committee.

3. We appreciate the valuable updates regarding trademark-related aspects of the domain name system as well as trademarks and international non-proprietary names for pharmaceutical substances (INNs) that have been shared in the SCT.
4. In relation to industrial designs, we reiterate our position that the DLT should not be discussed in the SCT. Rather, this General Assembly should continue to pave the way towards the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Treaty on the basis of a draft text that can lead to consensus.
5. An issue discussed more successfully in the area of industrial designs has been Graphical User Interface, icon and type face/type font designs (GUIs). At the 40th session a Questionnaire was finalised, with a focus on the requirement for a link between GUIs and the article or product, and the methods allowed by offices for the representation of animated designs. SCT 41 discussed a compilation of all returns to that Questionnaire. We expect the finalisation of the compilation for the next session and look forward to discussions on future work on this issue. We share common understanding that currently existing divergences should be directly addressed and further work on these issues can pave the way for a more harmonised approach. Similarly, progress has been made on the topic of temporary protection provided to industrial designs at certain international exhibitions under Article 11 of the Paris Convention. We await the discussion of a compilation of returns to the Questionnaire at the next session.

6. As to geographical indications (GIs), the EU and its Member States welcomed the compilation of the replies to the two Questionnaires for the 40th SCT session and its finalisation for the 41st session. We reiterate our view that this process has so far been a valuable and constructive exercise in advancing the international debate on GIs. We continue to share the understanding that the exercise should be advanced by agreeing a limited number of topics to be addressed in information sessions in future SCT meetings. Such topics should, in our view, address significant challenges confronting the global IP community, as they pertain to GIs. They should be issues of wide interest across the membership and should be confined to subjects under the scope of the SCT. The EU and its Member States believe that the treatment of geographical indications as IPR on the internet is one such area where there are significant lacuna, unjustified divergences from treatment of other forms of IPR, and of global significance. We therefore recommended our list of topics at the 41st session accordingly. We welcomed agreement on holding a half-day information session at the next meeting of the SCT as well as consensus reached on the programme for that information session, comprising three panels on a selected set of three topics. The EU looks forward to giving its own contribution on the topic of “Geographical indications as intellectual property titles in the operation of DNS and in the dispute resolution policies”. We also look forward to participating constructively in discussions of the other two topics on the programme. We await the discussion on the topics of further information sessions and encourage the wider membership to table proposals for debate on GIS on subjects of concern.
7. Highly appreciative of such positive tendencies, the EU and its Member States remain actively engaged in continuing work in all three key areas of the SCT.

Thank you.

**Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design
Law Treaty**

Agenda Item 18

Doc. WO/GA/51/8

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to reiterate that in our opinion, the basic text of the DLT has been stable since 2014 and ripe for the convening of a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the Treaty. Considering the benefits of harmonising and simplifying design registration procedures for users and WIPO Members across the spectrum of development, the continued delay in its adoption is unfortunate.
2. The EU and its Member States expect this General Assembly to continue to pave the way towards solutions to the two remaining open issues – the proposal for a disclosure requirement to be included in Article 3 of the Treaty, and the specific nature of the instrument on technical assistance and capacity building in implementing the Treaty. This would facilitate progress for the convening of a Diplomatic Conference.
3. As regards the first outstanding issue, we remain concerned that the inclusion of a disclosure requirement in the Treaty would work against the original aim of the whole WIPO membership of simplifying and harmonising current design registration procedures. Furthermore, regardless of all the complex and extensive negotiations in the WIPO IGC on establishing, at the international level, a similar disclosure requirement for patent applications, it does not appear appropriate for the DLT to contain the requirement in question.

4. Instead of inserting a disclosure requirement in the DLT, the EU and its Member States consider that the WIPO IGC is the appropriate forum to explore the underlying issues. We stand ready to continue discussions on this subject in the IGC framework. In this context, we make specific reference to discussions on subject matter during IGC 36 on Genetic Resources, as also reflected in the IGC Chair's Draft of an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.
5. In the light of ongoing discussions in the IGC and the possibility of finding a more thoroughly contemplated solution in that specialised committee, we invite the proponents to reconsider their proposal for a disclosure requirement in the DLT.
6. The EU and its Member States regret that a decision to convene a diplomatic conference was not made at the 2018 General Assembly. We recall that despite our willingness to engage in discussions on the facilitator's text, no positive outcome could be achieved. We trust that the Chair of the General Assembly will find the right course to handle the issue of the DLT. We would welcome and appreciate a constructive approach shared by all delegations in order to find a possible way forward. We look forward to participating in any informal discussions on this matter.
7. In respect of the various proposals discussed at the 2017 and 2018 General Assemblies, the EU and its Member States recall our active engagement in efforts to agree on appropriate wording in the context of Article 3, having come a long way from our initial position. We stand ready to explore possible options and work together with other delegations in order to find a solution that can be acceptable for all.
8. In relation to technical assistance, the EU and its Member States continue to support the effective delivery of technical assistance and capacity building in implementing the DLT. We remain flexible with regard to the options on the table. Whichever form is agreed should be geared towards the requirements of end users.

9. The EU and its Member States invite all parties to engage in discussions in a cooperative spirit that could facilitate a successful conclusion of the DLT. We believe that this would serve the interests of designers and WIPO Members across the globe.

Thank you.

**Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)
and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations**

Agenda Item 19

Docs WO/GA/51/9, WO/GA/51/10

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to express our continued support to the important work carried out by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). We are pleased to note that the Committee has successfully followed its mandate by developing and updating a work program for the implementation of the 45 adopted Development Agenda Recommendations (DARs) and by discussing various IP and development related issues, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and lately the impacts of digitalization and new technologies.
2. Referring to the Summaries by the Chair of the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the CDIP and to the Director General's Report on the Implementation of the Development Agenda in 2018, which together constitute the Committee's report to this Assembly, we note with appreciation that continuous progress has been achieved in implementing the DARs and in mainstreaming them in the work of WIPO. We particularly compliment the diverse technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which were development-oriented, demand-driven and addressed to the specific needs of beneficiaries.
3. The EU and its Member States would like to continue to emphasize our commitment to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We believe WIPO has an important role in supporting and assisting its Member States in their efforts to reach the SDGs - focusing especially on the SDGs most relevant to WIPO's mandate and the aim of promoting protection of IP. We encourage WIPO to make the most of its new website on SDGs by disseminating information and sharing best practices on how to use IP for achieving the SDGs.

4. The EU and its Member States are glad to note the decision taken by the Committee at its twenty-second session on “Women and IP”. Promoting gender equality is a priority of the European Union and we fully support the objectives of the decision. We believe that encouraging innovation and creativity among women and fostering their talents in science, technology and arts, together with increased IP education, will benefit all countries and all levels of society.
5. We look forward to more interesting and thought-provoking discussions under the agenda item “Intellectual Property and Development”, notably on the topics “MSMEs, Innovation and Intellectual Property” and “Intellectual Property and Creative Economy” at the next two sessions of the CDIP.
6. In conclusion, we acknowledge the extensive work performed by the CDIP, especially through the varied projects conducted. We remain committed to contributing to further progress in the Committee’s field, bearing in mind WIPO’s objective to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among States.

Thank you.

**Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Agenda Item 20

Doc. WO/GA/51/12

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States recognise the unique importance of the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). We acknowledge and commend the commitment of IGC Chair Mr Ian Goss, IGC Vice-Chairs Mr Jukka Liedes and Mr Faizal Chery Sidharta, facilitators Mr Paul Kuruk and Ms Lilyclair Belamy and friend of the Chair Ms Margo Bagley, to promote progress in the IGC through their excellent and hard work. We would also like to thank the WIPO Secretariat, in particular Mr Wend Wendland and Ms Fei Jiao, for all their precious support in preparing and administering IGC sessions.
2. In the biennium 2018/2019 the IGC held six thematic sessions in accordance with the mandate and adopted Work Program for this biennium. A new and more layered methodology including *ad hoc* Expert Groups and small contact groups was introduced in order to have focused discussions on key issues. Building on such exercises and as a result of discussions in IGC plenary and Informals, new revised versions of the texts including draft articles on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions respectively have been elaborated, as adopted by the 40th session of the IGC for transmission to this General Assembly. We stand ready to continue discussions on the basis of those revised texts.

3. The EU and its Member States would like to thank the IGC Chair for preparing and circulating a Chair's text on a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, dated April 30, 2019. We are appreciative of the IGC Chair's efforts to facilitate progress on GRs by means of providing a text intended to serve as a possible alternative for further discussions. In our view, that personal initiative provides an opportunity to be considered for future work on GRs. We welcome the transmission of the Chair's Text to this General Assembly as well as its inclusion as a working document of the IGC as a Chair's text, as decided at the last IGC session.
4. We also welcome that IGC 40 managed to reach consensus on a recommendation to this General Assembly on the terms of the IGC's Mandate and Work Program for 2020/2021. We find that a significant achievement and would like to thank all delegations for maintaining a positive spirit of cooperation throughout discussions related to future work during the last IGC session.
5. Chair, the EU and its Member States fully endorse the decisions and recommendations adopted at IGC 40, as contained in document WO/GA/51/12. We reiterate our support for the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2020/2021 on the terms and according to the program set out by IGC 40.
6. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of active participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the IGC. We are therefore pleased that two of our Member States, Finland and Germany, have made the pledges to contribute 15 000 euros each to the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities. We hope that other WIPO Member States join in the positive movement to ensure the participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the IGC also in the future.
7. We remain engaged in continuing negotiations on all three topics and look forward to participating constructively in the work of the IGC under the new mandate.

Thank you.

Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

Agenda Item 22

Doc. WO/GA/51/14

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States welcome the positive and constructive cooperation in the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement. We strongly support the work of this Committee, and note with satisfaction the wealth of quality contributions from WIPO Member States shared at the fourteenth session of ACE in September.
2. Focussing our discussions on practical experiences of WIPO Member States enables us to learn from other countries and build on each other's best practices. In this context, we particularly welcome discussions on the use of new technologies and role of intermediaries in IP enforcement, as well as arrangements to address online IP infringements.
3. With regard to future work in the ACE, the EU and its Member States would welcome to continue discussions, under the current well-balanced work programme, on education and awareness raising initiatives, not only to sensitize the society on the negative consequences of infringements of IPR, but also to demonstrate how to promote easy access to legal content and genuine products. We also believe that new technologies and measures that support SMEs in their efforts to combat counterfeiting and piracy should remain in the focus of Committee's work.
4. The European Union and its Member States see WIPO as the global forum for all intellectual property related matters, and believe that WIPO has an important role to play in coordinating Member States' efforts to more effectively combat IPR infringements. We are confident that fruitful collaboration between delegations will continue in a manner ensuring that a fair balance is kept between incentives to innovate and access to innovation.

Thank you.

Lisbon System

Agenda Item 25

Doc. LI/A/36/1

Chair,

1. The EU attaches great importance to the protection of its Member States' geographical product names outside the EU through the Lisbon System. We note that the protection of GIs has the potential to support sustainable development, preservation of cultural heritage and international trade in specialised products. We would thus like to see the Lisbon Union being successful and viable, as well as attracting new members.
2. The EU has made substantial progress on its way to becoming a Contracting Party to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The legislative procedure for the adoption of the legal acts will soon be concluded. Therefore, we are confident that the EU will be able to deposit its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act with WIPO still before the end of this year.
3. The EU and its Member States appreciate the work and effort of the Lisbon Union members aimed at preventing any future budget deficits of the Union and ensuring its long-term financial viability. We welcome the numerous ideas which have been brought forward in the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon system and acknowledge the progress made towards reaching an appropriate solution.
4. The EU and its Member States are convinced that a way can be found to provide financial support to the Union while securing full respect of the long-standing principles of solidarity and equality of treatment for each area of IP. We believe that it is also possible to find a long-term financing model for the Lisbon Union which would ensure the financial sustainability of the Union while at the same time being acceptable to all WIPO Member States and working well for WIPO as a whole. In this regard, we stress the importance of placing the Lisbon Union on an equal footing with all other Unions administered by WIPO.

5. As a means for ensuring the long-term viability of the Lisbon Union, we reiterate the importance of robust and focused promotion of the Lisbon System, including the Geneva Act, underlining the development potential of geographical indications with a view to attracting new Contracting Parties.

Thank you.

Closing Statement

Agenda Item 33

Chair,

1. Finland is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The EU and its Member States would like to thank you and the Vice-Chairs for your efforts and leadership in facilitating discussions during this GA. Our thanks go to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and facilitators of the Committees, to the Director General, the Deputy Directors General and the Secretariat of WIPO, for their tireless dedication and professionalism in reconciling the different positions during these Assemblies. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of documents and meetings, and the interpreters for their hard work and excellent performance.
2. We note with appreciation that the General Assembly adopted the recommendation from the SCCR regarding the Broadcasting Treaty and decided to invite the SCCR to continue its work towards convening a diplomatic conference, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium, subject to Member States reaching consensus on the fundamental issues in future meetings of the Committee. We would like to reiterate our continued commitment and great interest in these discussions and remain hopeful, that they will result in a meaningful treaty, which responds efficiently to both the current and future needs of broadcasting organisations.
3. Regarding agenda item 18 on the Design Law Treaty we would like to thank the facilitator HE Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera for her efforts. We were pleased to engage in Informal discussions initiated by the circulation of her proposal for a possible compromise solution on outstanding issues. Nevertheless, we have to note with regret that again this year, no positive decision to convene a diplomatic conference on the adoption of a Design Law Treaty could be achieved and that the matter remains on the agenda for the General Assembly in 2020.

4. Turning to the IGC, we are pleased that the GA approved the Committee's recommendation for the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for another two years. We now have a practical mandate and a clear work plan for the biennium 2020/2021. The EU and its Member States will continue to engage actively in discussions on all three topics addressed in the IGC mandate. In addition, we are happy to recall that two Member States of the EU, Finland and Germany, have pledged to contribute to the WIPO Voluntary Fund, thus facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the IGC. We hope other WIPO Member States will join in the positive movement and help keep the fund from becoming depleted in the following years.

5. In closing, the EU and its Member States would like to reiterate our continued commitment to WIPO's goals and work. This organization needs positive engagement from all delegations in performing its task as the only UN organization responsible for multilateral negotiations in the field of IP, despite the highly politicized nature of the topics discussed. We hope that the cooperative spirit shown in all WIPO Bodies and Committees will prevail and help us in finding pragmatic solutions also to topics that could not be finalized at these Assemblies.

Thank you.
