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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	61st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Geneva, 21 - 25 September 2020) - 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.

**Sixty-First Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
(Geneva, 21 September – 25 September 2020)**

**Agenda Item 5
General/Opening Statement**

Thank you Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. We thank you, Mr Chair, for your dedicated work throughout this year; we also thank WIPO staff for the excellent preparation of this General Assembly in difficult times. In particular, we would like to thank DG Gurry for his active leadership at WIPO during the last twelve years and his even longer lasting dedication to IP as a whole; we also thank the senior management team for their past and continued contributions to this organisation. At the same time, we wish DG-elect Daren Tang every success for his forthcoming office; we very much look forward to cooperate with him and assure him our full support.

Mr Chair, let me make five points:

2. First, we respect and support the decision to focus the agenda of this Assembly on indispensable administrative decisions. Nevertheless, the European Union and its Member States stand ready to continue to work on global IP policy issues here at WIPO as soon as the epidemic situation allows us to meet in a safe negotiating environment.

3. Second, COVID-19 and the measures to combat this pandemic have serious consequences for the global economy. IP has proven to be a driver of innovation, competitiveness and economic development, and for this reason, a strong and balanced IP system will be crucial not only for developing vaccines and medicines, but also for global economic recovery. In that regard, under the current circumstances it seems particularly important that businesses (and notably, SMEs and individuals) can count on a robust support from the institutions managing IP.
4. Third, we would like to encourage WIPO to continue examining how it can effectively contribute to combatting the global health crisis and to stimulating a global economic recovery. We therefore invite WIPO to engage even closer with the WHO and WTO, in order to ensure that IP issues are appropriately – and competently – addressed in the discussions. We need solid IP arrangements fostering innovation and the rapid development of vaccines and therapeutics, whilst ensuring fair and global access to all.
5. Fourth, Mr Chair, Artificial Intelligence and the data economy change the ways in which we think, work and interact, as DG Gurry just convincingly set out. We are grateful for WIPO's engagement in this area and would like to see it continued.
6. Fifth, we look back with satisfaction to the successful accession of the EU to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, we welcome its entry into force last February, and we encourage others to join the system as well.
7. Mr Chair, in closing, let me assure you that the European Union and its Member States will continue to support you in successfully leading this General Assembly.

Thank you.

Agenda item 13
Madrid System

Thank you Mr Chair,

We thank the Secretariat for submitting this proposal, as an additional measure to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on WIPO's services and on their users. The European Union and its Member States believe that it constitutes a positive step forward in the modernisation of the Madrid System and therefore we support it.

Agenda item 14
Hague System

Thank you Mr Chair,

As is the case with the previous point of the agenda, the European Union and its Member States are supportive of the proposal made by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 22
Closing statement

Thank you Chair,

1. Germany 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, Mr Chair, for your efforts and your guidance throughout this week that led us to a successful General Assembly, the first Assembly in a hybrid format. Our thanks also go to the Secretariat of WIPO whose hard work and excellent performance during this week was indispensable for the smooth and effective running of this Assembly.
2. With the successful conduct of this Assembly, WIPO showed its great ability to adapt to these special circumstances and its ability to act and to show the right direction for the future work of the Organisation.
3. Chair, we would like to reiterate our continued commitment to WIPO's work and aims. WIPO can count on the active support of the European Union and its Member States.
