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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	68th series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Geneva, 7–15 July 2026) – 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-Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

(Geneva, 7–15 July 2026)

Agenda Item 4

General/Opening Statement

Chair, Director General, distinguished delegates,

1. Ireland is pleased to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. Firstly, just to warmly congratulate you, Director General, dear Darren, on your re-election and to extend our sincere good wishes to you as you take up your second term of office. The renewed confidence placed in you, of course, reflects the excellent progress that WIPO has made under your stewardship and we have our full confidence in your leadership for the term ahead. And to you too, dear Carlos, thank you as well. We have full confidence in your leadership and ability to guide these proceedings to successful and constructive outcomes and we extend our sincere appreciation, of course, to the WIPO Secretariat for its preparation and continued support during and in advance of these proceedings.
3. Chair, the European Union and its Member States participate actively in the work of WIPO, guided by a firm conviction that intellectual property is a key enabler of innovation, economic growth, sustainable development, and prosperity. We commend WIPO's ongoing efforts to make the intellectual property system more accessible, user-oriented, and responsive to the needs of stakeholders worldwide, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, women, young people, and local communities. We welcome initiatives aimed at enhancing user-focused intellectual property services and activities and remain committed to contributing actively to these efforts. In this context, the EU and its Member States will continue to engage constructively across all areas of WIPO's work, fostering dialogue, promoting consensus, and acting as a bridge-builder in discussions and in negotiations.

4. The EU and its Member States attach particular importance to the development of the PCT, Hague, Madrid and Lisbon systems. We remain committed to international efforts aimed at strengthening the Lisbon Agreement, including the Geneva Act, and to advancing the international protection of geographical indications, having regard to WIPO's core mission of the protection of intellectual property rights and recognising the role of GIs in fostering economic, social, and sustainable development in line with the WIPO Development Agenda, whilst supporting trade and creating new business opportunities. This matter continues to be of particular interest to the EU and its Member States.
5. We commend WIPO's work on energy and climate transition, including through 'WIPO Green', and its effort to harness IP for economic development, particularly in empowering women and youth. We support further engagement in these areas and recognise WIPO's multilateral contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Ongoing work on the interface between IP and AI remains a high priority for us.
6. Chair, WIPO's assistance to Ukraine is of great importance to the EU and its Member States. It has proven to be a valuable instrument in the most critical time for Ukraine. The EU and its Member States are ready to engage in the discussion on the content of the report under the respective agenda item. We emphasise once again that we condemn the Russian Federation's unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine. The report provides clear evidence that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine drives us apart rather than bringing us closer together in our collective multilateral efforts, which are promoted by this organisation. The EU and its Member States express our continuous and unwavering support for and solidarity with Ukraine and with the people of Ukraine.
7. In conclusion, let me assure you we stand ready to engage constructively in all discussions during the WIPO Assemblies. We look forward to having a productive session under your able guidance.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 11 (i)

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

[WO/GA/60/3](#)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States remain committed to and support progressing towards concluding a worthwhile Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations which responds to the technological realities of the 21st century. We stand ready to engage in further discussions on the basis of the document to be prepared by the Chair in order to progress towards convening a diplomatic conference and concluding a meaningful Treaty that would ensure appropriate and effective protection to the broadcasting organisations in their fight against piracy of their signals at international level.
2. The EU and its Member States stand ready to continue to engage constructively in the discussions on Exceptions and Limitations, in particular on the basis of the Work Program agreed at the 43rd session.
3. We strongly believe that libraries, archives and museums play a crucial role in the dissemination of knowledge, information and culture, along with the preservation of our history. We also attach importance to the support of educational and research institutions and people with disabilities. However, as consistently expressed in the past, we cannot support work towards legally binding instruments at the international level. Our focus should be WIPO support and capacity building for WIPO members and improving their national legislation within the existing international copyright framework, including reflection on possible non-binding instruments. We look forward to discussions on the document to be prepared by the Chair.
4. Considering the challenges raised by technological developments, we welcome pursuing the exchange of information on copyright and artificial intelligence.

5. In terms of other agenda items, should the Committee's agenda be expanded to cover additional items in the future, we would recommend, as already indicated in the past, including the topic of the Author's Resale Right (droit de suite) on the permanent agenda of the Committee. We also stand ready to continue to engage on the revised "Draft Work Plan for Copyright in the Digital Environment".

Thank you.

Agenda Item 11 (ii)

The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

[WO/GA/60/4](#)

Chair,

1. Ireland is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to thank the Chairs, the WIPO Secretariat and the members of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents for the continuous efforts and progress made since the last General Assembly. There have been constructive discussions and developments on all five main topics on the agenda of the SCP, namely (1) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; (2) the quality of patents, including opposition systems; (3) patents and health; (4) the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, and (5) transfer of technology.
2. The European Union and its Member States attach particular importance to the quality of patents through robust and effective opposition mechanisms. A high-quality patent system is essential in maintaining an appropriate balance between the interests of inventors, industry, and other stakeholders, while safeguarding the broader interests of society. Such a system contributes to legal certainty, fosters innovation, and supports sustainable economic growth. We look forward to further advancing the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, particularly with regard to the increasingly important topic of artificial intelligence. Continued work in this area will benefit all Member States, regardless of their level of development, by strengthening the credibility, reliability, and resilience of the international intellectual property system. The European Union and its Member States remain of the view that, beyond its contribution to enhancing the technical quality of patents, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents should continue to provide a valuable forum for the exchange of views on the differences among existing patent law systems, while also facilitating discussions on the future harmonisation of substantive patent law.
3. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors. We find it very important to continue updating the compilation of court cases with respect to the client-patent advisor privilege.

4. The topic of transfer of technology remains of great importance for the European Union. In our view, *voluntary* transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms is the best way for the development of the economy, increasing the level of cooperation between patent holders and patentees and, consequently, increasing innovation and competitiveness. We look forward to the results of the study on the determination of inventorship and conditions of foreign filing, with a view to identifying potential challenges for the inventors in the cross-border collaborative environment, based on a survey of Member States as well as information from other sources, to be submitted to the thirty-eighth session.
5. The European Union and its Member States remain firmly committed to promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach to the relationship between patents and public health. We believe that it is essential to preserve effective incentives for innovation, research and development, investment, and voluntary licensing, while at the same time supporting broad, affordable, equitable, and timely access to safe and effective vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics worldwide. In this regard, we consider that the existing international intellectual property framework, including the flexibilities available under international intellectual property rules, provides an appropriate and effective basis for addressing public health challenges while continuing to foster innovation. The European Union and its Member States also continue to recognize the value of regular updates on publicly accessible databases containing patent status information relating to medicines and vaccines. Enhanced transparency in this area can support informed decision-making, facilitate access to relevant information, and contribute to the effective functioning of the global intellectual property system.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 11 (iii)

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

[WO/GA/60/5](#)

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States continue to attach great importance to the work of the SCT, as the multilateral forum for discussing international rules and practices for trademarks, designs and GIs. We thank the Secretariat for its work and the Chair for steering the Committee's discussions.
2. On trademarks, we take positive note of the work of the Committee, and in particular of the revised proposal concerning examination guidelines for trademarks which consist of or contain country names . We thank the co-sponsors for their constructive engagement, and we look forward to receiving the further revised version of the proposal and working towards a mutually acceptable solution.
3. We also welcome the new avenues opening in the Committee's work. We see clear merit in the proposal regarding the protection of well-known marks and we look forward to contributing actively to the forthcoming survey.
4. Turning to industrial designs, and the protection of designs for graphical user interfaces, the EU and its Member States regret that the desired progress could not be achieved and that discussions will only continue at the next session. As a co-sponsor of the draft joint recommendation, we remain convinced that its adoption would establish a common baseline for GUI design protection and would further contribute to the modernisation of design practices. As a non-binding recommendation, it would not prejudice the need of some Members to obtain further information on its implications, and we encourage the Committee to advance towards its adoption.

5. We welcome the Committee's attention to the protection of designs for new and emerging technologies, including projected, holographic, and virtual or augmented reality designs. Having recently modernised our own design framework to take account of such technologies, we consider this a timely and forward-looking avenue, and we look forward to contributing to the survey and to sharing our experience.
6. On geographical indications, the EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for organising the information sessions and the participants for sharing their insights and experiences. These exchanges continue to demonstrate the value of this Committee as a forum for dialogue on GIs, and we look forward to the information session and to the topics selected for the next session.
7. Finally, the EU and its Member States underline the importance of ensuring that the domain name system meets the needs of all IP rights holders. Under the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy, a complaint may at present be based only on prior rights in a trademark, whereas geographical indications cannot, as such, be relied upon. This leaves a significant gap in protection in the domain name system between different categories of right holders. We therefore strongly support adapting the UDRP to offer producers in all regions of the world a simplified remedy against the bad-faith registration of domain names that contain or consist of geographical indications. Such registrations may infringe rights recognised and protected under numerous international agreements, including the TRIPS Agreement, the Lisbon Agreement, and the Geneva Act.
8. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain committed to advancing discussions constructively in all three areas of the SCT's agenda.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 11 (iv)

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

[WO/GA/60/6](#)

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to express our continued commitment and support to the work carried out by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property. We are pleased to see that the Committee has successfully followed its mandate and through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda across WIPO sectors, as well as adoption of new projects, WIPO has responded to current development-related needs of Member States.
2. The EU and its Member States express their gratitude for the Director General's Report on the implementation of the Development Agenda for the year 2025. We acknowledge the wide range of technical assistance activities that have been provided, which we believe have contributed significantly to the improvements in the intellectual property frameworks of the beneficiary countries. We especially welcome the work related to women and IP and the projects to increase the role of women in innovation. Promoting gender equality is a high priority for the European Union as it will not only benefit the individuals but all countries and all levels of society.
3. Chair, we reaffirm our commitment 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.

Thank you.

Agenda item 11 (v)

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

[WO/GA/60/7](#)

Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, let me thank the Secretariat for the work undertaken during the past year. Let me also thank the IGC chair and vice-chair for the successful conducting of the last session.
2. The EU and its Member States consider it of paramount importance to deepen our common understanding of issues at the core of this Committee' discussions. In this regard, the sharing sessions were instrumental in informing and substantiating negotiations on the traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions draft texts and we look forward to their continuation in future sessions of the Committee. Dedicating at least two days to these exchanges strikes an appropriate balance, and we believe this format should be maintained in future IGC sessions. Emphasis should be placed on concrete national experiences able to guide discussions on the texts. The EU and its Member States consider equally important to organise discussions at conceptual and principled level. The last session proved it to be a useful exercise, and we expect that these discussions continue being an integral part of the work of the Committee in future sessions.
3. We would like to reiterate our view that any international instrument on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions should be non-binding and support a balanced, flexible and measure-based approach. We are also particularly attentive to making sure that any outcome of the work of this Committee carefully addresses the interface with the currently existing international IP system.
4. Lastly, we wish to underline that the work of this Committee can only move forward if we manage to reach a common understanding of what we wish to achieve collectively. For this reason, it is important to maintain a transparent and inclusive process, taking into account all Member States' views and positions.

5. Chair, let me reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in the work of this Committee and actively participate in future IGC sessions.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 11 (vi)

The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

[WO/GA/60/9](#)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the work of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement. The last session provided further evidence of the need to continue working collectively at international level to strengthen the enforcement of intellectual property rights. We thank the Secretariat for its valuable work and the Chair for guiding the Committee's discussions.
2. This year's session once again highlighted how the infringement of intellectual property rights undermines economic development, innovation, employment while also posing risks to the environment, global public health and consumer safety. More importantly, the broad-ranging discussions underscored the variety of measures developed around the globe to strengthen efforts to combat IP infringement. We would like to thank all the speakers who contributed to this year's session. By sharing the experience, they supported WIPO delegations in defining ways to more effectively tackle counterfeiting and piracy.
3. This Committee offers a unique opportunity at the international level to exchange information, practical experiences and good practices in the fight against IP infringement. The European Union and its Member States therefore consider it of paramount importance to maintain the focus of discussions on intellectual property enforcement. This three-day session was extremely rich in substance; however, this remains a modest effort in view of the significance of IP enforcement and the ever-growing challenges facing intellectual property rights.

4. As highlighted in the presentation delivered by the EU during this year's session, effective measures to combat counterfeiting and piracy do not necessarily require substantive legislative changes. Rather, this Committee provides a valuable forum for sharing information and experiences on the various ways in which IP enforcement can be strengthened. Against this backdrop, the European Union and its Member States will continue to participate actively and constructively in the work of this Committee.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 12

PCT System

[\(PCT/A/58/1\)](#) [\(PCT/A/58/2\)](#) [\(PCT/A/58/3\)](#) [\(PCT/A/58/3 ADD.\)](#)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the Patent Cooperation Treaty system, which is a cornerstone of WIPO. Its Working Group is instrumental in supporting its effective functioning and ensuring that it remains fit for purpose. Like other WIPO technical committees, it plays an essential role in maintaining and modernising WIPO's registration systems.
2. We therefore regret that the 19th session of the PCT Working Group was unable to adopt its agenda and, as a result, could not proceed with its substantive work. Procedural deadlocks of this kind risk undermining the effective functioning of those systems, as well as WIPO's credibility in delivering on its core functions as an effective and well-functioning multilateral forum.
3. The European Union and its Member States hope that a workable way forward can be found, in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, allowing the PCT Working Group to resume its technical work as soon as possible. We underline, in this regard, that the agreed statement set out in footnote 4 to Article 7 of the GRATK Treaty must be fully respected.
4. The European Union and its Member States remain committed to constructively engage in the discussions with the objective of keeping the focus on the core mission of the PCT Working Group, namely ensuring the smooth, effective and efficient functioning of the PCT system.
5. In this regard, the EU and its Member States support the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the PCT as recommended by the PCT Working Group at its 18th session.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 13

Madrid System

[\(MM/A/60/1\)](#) [\(MM/A/60/2\)](#)

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to the Madrid System as one of WIPO's flagship global registration services, and as a vital tool for businesses, and in particular SMEs, seeking to protect their trademarks across borders. We thank the Secretariat for its continued work to keep the System efficient, accessible, and responsive to the needs of its users.
2. The EU and its Member States take note of the Report of the Working Group and welcome the progress made in modernising the Madrid System. We note in particular the cost-saving innovations being taken forward, including the differentiated translation practice and the development of the Unified Goods and Services Database, and we encourage the Secretariat to maintain high technical and translation-quality standards as this work advances. We also look forward to the development of the new, user-centred IT platform.
3. On dependency, the EU and its Member States attach importance to preserving the dependency principle, which remains an integral feature of the System. At the same time, we are open to discussing a reduction of the dependency period from five to three years, as a pragmatic means of enhancing legal certainty for rights holders.
4. On the languages of the System, we remain open to continuing the discussions, including on the international registration language option. In doing so, we underline the importance of safeguarding the financial sustainability of the System and of ensuring that any further development does not weaken the use of the System's three current working languages.

5. Finally, the EU and its Member States are pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 of the Regulations. By introducing standardised forms for cancellations, streamlining the content of provisional refusals and providing for the recording of email addresses with appropriate safeguards for personal data, these amendments will bring practical improvements in efficiency, transparency and legal certainty for users and Offices alike.
6. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain committed to the continued development of the Madrid System, for the benefit of all its members and users.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 14

Hague System

[H/A/46/1](#)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the Hague System as one of the key international registration systems operated by WIPO and to the work undertaken by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done during the last year and the Working Group chair for the steering of discussions during the last session.
2. We believe that the proposals put forward by the Secretariat, aiming at modernising the System, such as the removal of the monoclasse requirement or the inclusion of new formats of representation of designs, are a positive step leading towards the modernisation of this System, that has now reached a century. We are looking forward to the continuation of discussions on such proposals during the next session of the Working Group and to proactively working towards tangible advancements to the system.
3. On what refers to the possible introduction of new languages in the system, we consider that the introduction of any new language in any system administered by WIPO must represent an advantage and not a burden for the users of the system. In addition, we believe that the introduction of new languages into the various systems should be done gradually. This would allow us to assess the outcomes before taking any further steps and to ensure the stability of the international registration systems. In this respect, maintaining a good functioning of the international registration systems, and particularly in this case of the Hague System services, should remain a key priority.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 16

Lisbon System

[LI/A46/1](#)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the Lisbon System and to the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. As the international register dedicated to the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications, the Lisbon System – and in particular the Geneva Act – is an essential instrument for the protection and promotion of geographical indications worldwide. We remain firmly committed to its effective functioning and to promoting wider adherence to the Geneva Act.
2. The European Union and its Member States are pleased to announce that the legislative procedure to align our legal framework with the amendments to the Common Regulations adopted by the Lisbon Union Assembly on 14 July 2025 will be implemented in due course.
3. Further, we take note of the Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System at the end of its seventh session (contained in document LI/A/43/1).
4. We reaffirm our commitment to contributing actively to the work of the Working Group, building on the proposals we presented at its seventh session – both on the amendments to the Common Regulations and on the procedures relating to additional requirements – with a view to fostering consensus at the next session. We consider that the further development of the Common Regulations should continue to build on the work of the Working Group and be carried forward, in keeping with established practice, by consensus.
5. We also attach importance to enhancing the attractiveness of the Lisbon System, in order to encourage new accessions and wider participation in the Geneva Act.

6. The European Union and its Member States remain fully committed to engaging constructively in these discussions, with the objective of supporting the continued development of the Lisbon System and the robust protection of geographical indications at the international level.

Thank you.

Reactive statement

Thank you Chair, allow me to react to some statements from some Member States. The European Union and its Member States are fully committed to the strengthening and the promotion of the Lisbon system and to the equality of treatment for each area of intellectual property. As regards the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, the EU and its Member States are convinced that it is possible to find a way to provide adequate support to the Lisbon Union, while it develops in line with the long-standing principles of cooperation and solidarity between the different WIPO Unions.

Agenda Item 16

WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, including Domain Names

[WO/GA/60/10](#)

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States take note of document WO/GA/60/10 and thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive report. We attach great importance to the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center as a neutral, efficient and globally accessible forum for the resolution of IP disputes, and as a valuable alternative to court litigation for rights holders and users alike.
2. We welcome the Center's continued development and note with satisfaction the strong growth in its caseload, as well as the prominent place of small and medium-sized enterprises among the parties it serves. We particularly welcome the Center's expanding engagement in standard-essential patents and FRAND licensing, the creative industries, among them video games and esports, and green technology.
3. As ICANN prepares to begin the second phase of its review of the rights protection mechanisms, focused on the UDRP, the EU and its Member States would like to recall WIPO's foundational role as the author and steward of the UDRP. We welcome the Center's recent expert-led, consultative review of the UDRP's operation, and we consider WIPO to be the authoritative expert body to inform ICANN's process, so that the proven effectiveness and integrity of the UDRP are preserved. In this context, we also welcome the Center's appointment as the sole dispute resolution provider for Legal Rights Objections and String Confusion Objections in the 2026 round of new generic top-level domains.

Thank you.

Closing of the Sessions

Closing statement by the European Union and its Member States

Chair,

1. Ireland is honored to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. We express our gratitude to you, Chair, for your efforts in guiding our work during these sessions of WIPO Assemblies. We also thank the Director General, the Senior Management and the Secretariat for preparing and advancing these series of meetings. Our thanks extend to the interpreters and to the Diplomatic Engagement and Assemblies Affairs Division for the very well-organized Assemblies and side events.
3. Successful outcomes of these Assemblies were reached by consensus, and reflect our collective commitment to the continued operation of the crucial work of this Organisation. We express our sincere appreciation to all who constructively contributed and we reaffirm our dedication to ongoing work within WIPO, based on consensus.
4. The EU and its Member States also welcome WIPO's continued assistance to Ukraine's innovation and creativity sector and its IP system which is impacted significantly by the Russian aggression.
5. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain committed to work constructively together with Member States to assist WIPO in further developing an efficient and balanced IP ecosystem for the benefit of all.
6. We would also like to wholeheartedly thank the outgoing management team Lisa Jorgenson, Binying Wang, Sylvie Forbin, Hasan Kleib and Edward Kwakwa for their valuable contribution throughout their tenure, and we welcome the new team, who will have our full support. In conclusion, we once again thank all delegations for their constructive engagement and wish all capital-based delegates a safe journey home.

Thank you Chair.