

Some Personal Remarks on International IP

Following the news in the last weeks I recognized tremendous discussion in the field of international IP. More and more attention is given to the divergent interpretation of the consequences of the protection originated from IP rights. At the same time WIPO and its organizational structures are under scrutiny.

I do not believe that the situation is as devastating as it was hawked in the media. For me WIPO is and will be the central and vital institution in the field of international IP. Nevertheless, there are some important aspects which have to be addressed within the near future.

Strengthening WIPO's global influence is unavoidable. International cooperation can only function on a basis of mutual respect, trust and understanding. As demonstrated several times in the past, WIPO is an ideal platform for international cooperation in the field of IP. We will need this ample experience to concentrate our abilities to harmonize the needs and interests of all stakeholders.

The Development Agenda as one of the main tasks to bring the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations have drawn up in 2000, to life and success is especially important in this respect. There is plenty of creativity as well as traditional knowledge in our world, which has to be brought to the best use of us all.

That is why I consider it to be our duty and responsibility to restructure and reorganize WIPO's day to day business in order to provide an effective platform for global cooperation.

Therefore it seems to me, that the first and foremost duty of the new Director General of WIPO is to work closely together with all stakeholders to achieve these goals. Innovation and personal engagement are key factors to contribute in this process.

In our astonishingly fast developing modern world, duly handled technological development can help people to lead a better life in peace and dignity.

Let us work together to bring this vision alive as soon as possible.

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