07/28/2023 Events

A series of events dedicated to the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) took place from July 24 to 27, 2023, in the city of Batumi, Georgia. These events were organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia (SAKPATENTI). The aim of these activities was to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy, and to identify and address the challenges faced by both the public and private sectors in this important area.

During the events, the Republic of Moldova was represented by a delegation led by Eugeniu Rusu, Director General of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), Natalia Mogol, Deputy Director General of AGEPI, Luminita Bodarev, senior consultant, Legal Assistance and Contract Registration Division of AGEPI, Sergiu Daranuta, Head of the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Non-Food Products and Consumer Protection and Vasile Tiganescu, Head of the North Mobile Team Section within the Customs Fraud Investigation Directorate, Customs Service.

Events included:

1. Annual International Conference entitled “Georgia against Counterfeiting and Piracy”

The 7th edition of the International Conference “Georgia against Counterfeiting and Piracy” was held from July 24 to 25. The main purpose of this two-day conference was to enhance the dialogue between international experts, relevant government authorities and other stakeholders from Georgia and the neighboring region to share experiences and discuss challenges faced by both the public and private sectors in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

In the opening of the conference, Georgian officials emphasized the importance of dialogue between the institutions involved in ensuring respect for rights both at the national and international levels. The officials also mentioned the importance of establishing effective mechanisms for data exchange and cooperation between corresponding institutions in different states, taking into account the fact that the phenomena of counterfeiting and piracy seriously affect economies on an international scale.

The CLDP representative, Skip Mark, mentioned the need to raise awareness of the dangers posed by counterfeiting and piracy, and also the need to adjust the tools used to counter them, especially emerging from the evolution of information technologies.

During the conference, the main achievements and challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova in the field of IPR enforcement were also presented. In particular, the actions taken by the member authorities of the Observatory on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights of the Republic of Moldova were highlighted, namely: AGEPI, the General Police Inspectorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Customs Service, the Prosecutor General’s Office, the Agency for Courts Administration, the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Non-Food Products and Consumer Protection and the Competition Council, in order to prevent, detect and counter IPR infringements, and also the challenges related to the insufficiency of resources, including human, the duration of the examination of files in the courts, the insufficiency of awareness of the dangers posed by counterfeit and pirated products, and the need to build respect for intellectual property in Moldovan society.

2. Intellectual Property Expert Working Group

The second meeting of the Expert Level Working Group on Intellectual Property, facilitated by the CLDP Program, was held on 26 July. The objective of this working group is to identify common challenges to IPR enforcement and develop recommendations for regional cooperation between the countries of the Caucasus and Eastern Europe. By promoting greater harmonization and cooperation in the region, it aims to improve regional efficiency in the use of intellectual property and develop its

commercialization in accordance with international standards. The working group focused on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, to address the specifics and needs of these states in terms of intellectual property.

Following the discussions, it was decided to organize in Chisinau, this December, a regional training event dedicated to the representatives of the authorities responsible for IPR enforcement, as well as to continue the efforts to identify the optimal solutions for improving regional cooperation on the dimension of intellectual property.

3. Trans-Caspian Forum on Intellectual Property

The Trans-Caspian Intellectual Property Forum was held on July 27. This one-day event brought together public sector representatives from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to explore the successes and challenges in IPR enforcement in the wider region. The forum promoted the exchange of information through the presentation of reports on intellectual property laws and regulations, procedures for identifying, tracking and confiscating counterfeit goods, experiences with online/digital platforms and challenges faced by law enforcement authorities in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.


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