

Speech

Safet Emruli, PhD
Director
STATE OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

“CREATING MARKETS FROM RESEARCH RESULTS”
Conference on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the establishment of
the State Office of Industrial Property

Museum of Macedonian Struggle
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Skopje

Respected

Mr. Anche Trifunov – State Secretary at the Ministry of Economy;

Respected representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Mr. Steve Thom - Senior Adviser at cabinet of the Director General of COIC and coordinator of our activities with COIC, Ms Silvija Trpkovskis;

Respected representatives of the European Patent Office, respected Mr. Wim van der Eijk – Vice-President of EPO, and your associates Georg Artelsmair and coordinator of our cooperation, Ms. Minna Nikolova-Kress

Respected colleagues, directors of the regional Offices and your associates:

Mr. Safet Sula, Ms. Branka Topic, Ms. Lidija Vignjevic, Ms. Ljiljana Kuterovac, Mr. Ioan Muskulu, Ms. Zorka Mileva and Ms. Flutra Hodja

OUR RESPECTED GUESTS AND ASSOCIATES:

I wish you welcome in Macedonia and I thank you for honoring us with your presents. Your esteemed presents increases the importance of our small but meaningful jubilee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To persist on the stage of intellectual property involves a partnership in every sense of the word. Today's meeting is an example of this. We thank WIPO and the EPO for supporting the Office in celebration of our anniversary, assisting us to enable you to be guests of the Office, to feel comfortable and to share experiences on one of the many current topics debated at the international level.

I will not be referring to the historical development of industrial property in the country nor the growth of the Office and its position and function in the state administration. The reason for this is the fact that the majority of our guests walked the same path, and the rest followed us, assisted and cooperated with us.

What I would like to talk about is the future of Republic of Macedonia in the system of centralized management of industrial property rights and their supranational dimension.

It is certain that we celebrate this anniversary in the family of WIPO and the EPO. However, we feel strongly the need to integrate in the OHIM Community. We still lack the opportunity to participate in such an important system for harmonization of the rights on trademarks and designs on the Community market.

We are witnesses that the Community patent is reality in which the role of our country is uncertain. I am aware that among the present high representatives there are colleagues whose countries face the same uncertainty.

Although I would like to share their visions on how to go further, and to follow the flow closely, I would like to avoid these, I would say, political topics.

Thinking of choosing the topic for today's conference, I explicitly decided to choose a topic on which can work and cooperate together to achieve better results.

Creating markets of the results of scientific research was topic in May this year when in Munich, the EPO held a two-day conference attended by more than 300 participants from around 40 countries. On this conference, that was attended by our representatives of the

universities in our country, the representatives of the EPO, OECD and the Technical University of Munich as well as big names and companies shared with the attendees a vision of how universities can take a dynamic role within innovation system of each country.

There are many conclusions of this conference. I would only like to refer to the one suggesting that market technology transfer from universities offers no single a solution that would suit everyone. That's why I wanted this conference to become a meeting on which the region would have the opportunity to point out the problems we are facing and the ways in which they are being tackled.

To provide the universities with an entrepreneurial spirit is not an easy task, however, above all, there is a need of strong political will. But this is not enough on its own. The academic community must be familiar with the benefits and be convinced that the educational function will not be affected by the spirit of entrepreneurship. Success requires a balance of the two functions of higher education institutions. Our Office is ready to work on the promotion of these values among public university.

Moreover, the Office is ready to take initiative to support any initiative on your countries and national offices that would have achieved these goals.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a pleasant stay in Republic of Macedonia.