

Speech

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State Secretary

Ministry of Economy

“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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Respected ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to address you on the occasion of the 20 anniversary of the establishment of the State Office for Industrial Property and the adoption of the Law on Industrial Property in sovereign and independent Republic of Macedonia. It is my great honor and pleasure that on this festive day for the Republic of Macedonia, here in Skopje, along with us came to celebrate High Representatives of the institutions in which Macedonia is a Member State, as well as Directors and Senior Representatives of the Offices of our neighborhood. Allow me to greet Mr. Steve Thom, Senior Advisor at the cabinet of Mr. Francis Gurry, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Mr. Wim van der Eljk, Vice-President of Mr. Benoit Battistelli, the President of the European Patent Office, you respected guests from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Serbia, Romania and Republic of Croatia.

Allow me to also congratulate this small but meaningful jubilee to the Director of the State Office, Mr. Safet Emruli and his associates and all employees of the State Office of Industrial Property.

Respected ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the activities of the Government of Republic of Macedonia which highly appreciates the importance of innovation and intellectual property as key element for increase of competitiveness of the domestic economy as well as the role of the State Office of Industrial Property in realization of these activities.

The activities in the area of supporting innovation mostly relate to the creation of a legal framework to encourage and support innovative capacity of the economy, primarily, but also to providing mechanisms for financial support for the implementation and development of innovative projects by creating opportunities for co-financing, subsidies and credits for the innovation sector in the country.

More recently, higher education institutions in the Republic of Macedonia as well as in the rest of the world are recognized as a key innovative sector in the country. They are seen as the core of which is to generate new innovative products and technologies based on the results of scientific research activities taking place at universities.

For this purpose, a growing number of strategic documents have been adopted, such as the Programme for Investment Promotion, Programme for Competitiveness, Industrial Policy and Innovation Strategy which is in line with the innovation strategy of the European Union, known as Horizon 2020.

As the biggest achievement of the Republic of Macedonia on this plan, I want to single out the Law on Innovative Activity, adopted in May this year. This Law provides for establishment of Innovation Fund which, as of the beginning of 2014, will provide the government with the opportunity to ensure financial assistance for placing the results of applied research at universities and scientific research institutions on the domestic and foreign markets.

The Office actively participates in the work of all these strategic government activities that I think are extremely important and will help the creators and owners of inventive solutions to implement their innovative ideas into concrete products, technologies and services, thereby contributing to opening of new markets and jobs. Indeed, one of the priorities of European Union's Horizon 2020 is reduction of unemployment and increase of competitiveness of the European economy and its capacity to deal with the rise of the world's fast growing economies.

I expect that the new Industrial Property Strategy will provide activities for the Office in direction of supporting innovation capacity of universities in the country.

Distinguished representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office, I hope that you will also support the Office in the realization of these government priorities. The bilateral cooperation with you, respected representatives of the neighboring Offices, is of no less importance to us. Nonetheless, I think that regional, and if you would, sub-regional cooperation is a key factor for successfully tackling of these challenges. Let this Conference be a beginning of our mutual cooperation in this area in the region.

Let me end my speech by wishing you a pleasant stay in the country and a successful conference in hope that the activities in the field of promotion of the innovative potential of universities and their management will be intensified and that under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office, the National Offices in the region will work together towards the achievement of the objectives of Horizon 2020.

Thank you for your attention!