

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
AND
THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania (GDIP) hereinafter referred as “the Offices”:

CONSIDERING the importance of intellectual property (also known as industrial property) for economic development, innovation, and technology exchange;

RECOGNISING the need to promote innovation, and improve and strengthen national intellectual property (IP) systems with a view to guaranteeing proper administration, protection, and use of intellectual property rights;

REALIZING the value of bilateral cooperation between the Offices to strengthen existing intellectual property systems by establishing a mechanism to have regular exchange of information and best practices and to jointly undertake training and other cooperative activities;

DESIRING to foster cooperation between the Offices in order to promote economic and technological exchanges;

hereby set out the following understanding:

Section 1
General Provisions

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a basis for cooperative activities between the Offices in the field of intellectual property rights, in accordance with the responsibilities of the two offices in this area.

The Offices plan to cooperate on matters related to the acquisition, utilization, and protection of intellectual property rights in their respective systems.

Section 2

Areas of Cooperation

Subject to available resources, the cooperation activities are intended to cover the following areas:

- exchange of information on legislation in the field of intellectual property and considerations for its improvement;
- cooperation on intellectual property-related training programs;
- cooperation in the field of patent information processing and services to the public;
- organization of joint conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, and roundtables about the role of IP in innovation and economic growth, or IP education and public awareness campaigns;
- exchange of non-confidential IP-related information and best practices;
- cooperation on capacity building in the examination and granting of intellectual property by the Offices; and
- other future directions of IP-related cooperation as mutually agreed upon by the Offices.

Section 3

Limitations

This Memorandum is intended as a framework arrangement for bilateral cooperation on matters related to the acquisition, utilization, and protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with the responsibilities of the two offices in this area.

This Memorandum does not obligate funds and each Office intends to bear its own expenses in the process of performing activities under this Memorandum, particularly travel expenses, unless both Offices decide otherwise.

This Memorandum is not legally binding and does not create any rights or obligations under international law or the domestic law of any country. The

provisions of this Memorandum are not intended to affect the rights and duties of the Offices that derive from bilateral and multilateral agreements, whether existing or future, of which they are a party or signatories.

The Offices' cooperative activities should be coordinated as far as practical with other IP-related programmes, including with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), European Patent Office (EPO), and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Section 4

Contact Points

The Offices intend to provide their best efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the activities contemplated. The Offices nominate the following persons as contacts for all matters regarding this Memorandum: Ms. Ina Dervishi, e-mail: ina.dervishi@dppm.gov.al, tel: +355 698559389 on behalf of GDIP, and Mr. Edward Elliott, e-mail: edward.elliott@uspto.gov, tel: +1.571.272.7024 on behalf of USPTO.

Section 5

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute which may arise in connection with the interpretation or enforcement of this Memorandum of Understanding should be amicably resolved through consultations between the Offices.

Section 6

Final Clauses

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to take effect on the day following the date of its signature and to have a duration of five years (5), renewable for further periods of the same duration subject to the Offices' mutual decision.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual decision of the Offices, and should be formalised in an exchange of letters specifying the date of effect of the modifications.

Either Office may discontinue this Memorandum of Understanding at any time by giving written notice to the other Office, and should endeavor to provide such notice at least three (3) months prior to the date of intended discontinuance.

The Offices intend to make best efforts to complete any projects undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum that may still be in progress should the Memorandum be discontinued.

Signed in Geneva on Oct. 4, 2017, in English language, accompanied by a copy of this document in the Albanian language. In case of divergences the English text should be used for the purposes of interpretation.

On Behalf of the

United States Patent and Trademark
Office

**Performing the Functions and Duties
of the
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and Director of
the United States Patent and
Trademark Office**

Joseph D. Matal



On Behalf of the

General Directorate of Industrial
Property of the Republic of Albania

Director General

Elvin LAKO

