Intellectual Property as a Trade Policy Tool

E-Leaders Milano, 3 – 5 June, 2014

Ludmila Sterbova University of Economics, Prague

Trade Policy

Reflects economic (and other) interests of a government with two main goals:

- to protect domestic market
- to promote expansion of its subjects on foreign markets
- autonomous decisions, autonomous instruments
- implementation of contractual outcomes and international systems (prevailing)

Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property

- Payment for use of IP right (compensation of investment)
- Competition aspects
- Marketing aspects
- Possibility to prevent unauthorized use of outcomes of creative activities
- Financing (SMEs, start-ups, spin-offs)
- Guarantee for consumers (quality, safety)
- Autonomous and contractual tool of a governmental trade policy

International Systems on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

Legal impacts:

- Protection of IPRs
- Enforcement of IPRs
- Recommendations
- Best practices
- Analyses
- Information

Related aspects with a potential to influence protection and enforcement of IPRs

International Systems on IPRs: legal basis

International Agreements and Registration:

- Multilateral (WTO, WIPO)
- Plurilateral (ACTA: an attempt only)
- Bilateral (as a part of preferential trade and investment agreements or specific agreements – *e.g.* on geographical indications)

Intellectual Property Rights within International Organizations



EU Trade Policy: legal basis for IPRs

• Lisabon agreement, Art. 207:

- Common principles of the EU Trade policy (also) for trade related aspects of intellectual property, including agreements on these aspects
- Exclusive external and internal competences

IPR as a TP tool in the EU

- Protection of the EU market:
 - Adequate protection of authorized owners under MFN clause
 - Protection from unfair competition and effective enforcement of IPRs
- Expasion support
 - International negotiations, agreements
 - Trade disputes
 - Barriers elimination
 - Effective enforcement abroad

Strategic EU documents:

- Europe 2020 Strategy
- Trade, Growth and World Affaires
- Global Europe
- Digital Agenda
- Single Market Act I, II
- Single Market for Intellectual Property Rights
- Trade, Growth and Development
- European Anti-Counterfeiting and Antipiracy plan
- Strategy for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Third Countries
- Industrial property rights
 strategy for Europe
- Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs

IPRs in the EU activity fields (European Commission Directorates-General)

- Common Trade Policy (TRADE)
- Agriculture Policy (AGRI)
- Internal Market (MARKT)
- Reserch and Development (RTD)

- Industry and enterprises (ENTR)
- Development and cooperation (DEVCO)
- Tax and customs union (TAXUD)

EU Communitary protection for IPRs

- Community Trade Mark
- Community registred design
- European patent with unitary effect
- Plant variaties
- Geographical indications

Protection of EU IPRs in third countries

- Preferencial Trade Agreements
 - no exception from MFN clause
 - protection (GIs, SPC, undisclosed information)
 - Enforcement (administrative and criminal procedures)
- Implementation of international agreements
 - capacity building
- Monitoring
- Multilateral trade agreements and negotiations
- Trade Disputes
- International Organizations

Effective enforcement of EU IPRs

- At the EU market:
 - Boarder measures
 - Internal market measures
- In third countries:
 - Information and Market Access Databasis
 - IPR dialog (priority countries)
 - Projects with like-minded countries
 - International agreements on IPRs enforcement

Thank you for your attention

ludmila.sterbova@vse.cz