

EDRI's Statements at IIM2

By Ville Oksanen of EDRI

Second: (22 June 2005)

I would like first to thank the chair for the chance to address this meeting again. As usual I'll be very brief.

European Digital Rights represents 17 privacy and civil rights organizations from eleven different countries around Europe.

As stated in our previous intervention, EDRI would like to stress the importance of the creation of the independent WIPO Evaluation and Research Office as described in the item Five based on the proposal by the Friends of the Development.

We strongly believe that all decision making should be based on the best scientific knowledge available. Only a totally independent unit, which uses the best practices of the science, can produce results, can be trusted by all stakeholders.

It should be noted that - in general - the current state of academic research on different aspects of IPRs leaves a lot to be desired. For example, research on the economics of copyright is still very immature and seriously lacks resources because the traditional centers of economic research are not really active in the area. A strong, specialized research unit could help foster research and also encourage suitably qualified people to choose the field, which currently is often regarded as obscure and difficult to approach.

An independent research office would be very helpful for the certain other proposed actions, which EDRI warmly supports. For example, it would be natural candidate for executing the "Development Impact Assessments" as explained in item 8 and for developing the Indicators and Benchmarks for Evaluation of Technical Assistance described in the item 13.

Thank you.

First: (20 June 2005)

I would like first to thank the chair for the chance to address this meeting. I'll be very brief.

European Digital rights represents 17 privacy and civil rights organisations from 11 different countries around Europe.

As stated in our previous intervention, we strongly support the proposal by the "Friends of the development" Similarly, we believe that Brazil's suggestion for the structure of the discussion would offer the best opportunity for this meeting to cover the all different aspects of current proposals on the table. We firmly stress that the further discussion should not be limited to the technical assistance alone.

Secondly, EDRI also welcomes United Kingdom's redefined proposal to strengthen the role of Permanent Committee on Co-operation for Development related to Intellectual Property as a positive first step. However, in our opinion, the proposal still lacks substantial content and therefore it should be only considered together with the much extensive elements of the Friends of Development's proposal.

Finally, EDRI likes to stress the importance of the creation of the independent WIPO Evaluation and Research Office. In our view all decision making should be based on the best scientific knowledge available and the office would help to facilitate this goal.

Thank you.