UNIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS THE FACILITATOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY

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Abstract: This article demonstrates the role that international organizations should have in their efforts to unify international law in key matters significant for accomplishing knowledge based economy worldwide. It proposes guidelines for action within the United Nations, particularly the most important international organizations dealing with knowledge and economy (WTO, OECD, WHO, ILO and UNESCO) as well as the European Union, in order to give an incentive for the development of a knowledge based economy. This article offers an initiative to strengthen ties between politicians, scientists, intellectuals, experts, state officers and businessmen united in their idea to support an integrative and international approach to this issue. Public international law matters must not be the last topic to be addressed. The conclusions of this article emphasize that existing efforts by the UN and other global international organizations are giving fairly vague and modest results; the EU has adopted basic regulations and policies, while the rest of the world has done much less in this matter, if we exclude the USA. Without the unification of international law in related matters through networking and common action, the dissemination process of a knowledge based economy would lack crucial tools and instruments for adequate management.

Key words: knowledge based economy, international organizations, networking.

Introduction

Various solutions used in national laws for regulating particular matters important for the protection of knowledge, work force, education and market competition, as key assets and instruments for the achievement of a knowledge

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based economy, impede its spreading throughout the world. International laws should therefore be unified in all key matters significant for realizing a knowledge based economy. This includes obligations that states and international organizations should have in creating a supportive environment for this purpose, as well as obligations by state bodies, courts, and other institutions and corporations to behave in accordance with the created regulations. It is important to encompass the protection of intellectual property, workforce, education, information, communication technologies and market competition matters, through international conventions and regulations, for the creation of a knowledge based economy worldwide. On global and regional levels, defined policies, strategies, mechanisms and measures for the integrated support to the development of knowledge based economy should exist. Efforts by individual corporations, states or regional organizations would not be enough to achieve this on a global scale.

The theoretical base for this project relies on the fact that the developed part of the world has already adopted a policy towards optimal utilization of knowledge from various scientific and practical fields. The question of whether such utilization is oriented towards pure profitability or sustainable development remains open. Developed states have already put forward the objective to optimize use of disposable resources in order to support sustainable development, maximizing the efficiency of use of fossil resources and orienting themselves towards the use of renewable resources. In their political documents, the prevailing theory is that of the necessity of strong orientation to incorporate knowledge as the core element of any production. The majority of poor countries are still far from such developments. The contemporary interconnection between all existing states make it indispensable to undertake efforts to homogenize various countries and cultural circles in order to collectively attain a knowledge based economy. The common objective would not only be to get a better use of existing resources, but also to ensure the long run survival of a mankind, having in mind the environmental matters and future problems with energy.

This would not be possible to achieve without the unification of policies and international legal documents. Instruments must be developed to ensure that member states of the international community and regional organizations (such as EU, OAU or NAFTA) would be devoted to common efforts to unify international policies and international law in this matter, resulting in the promotion of the knowledge based economy concept.

This article will respond to questions about where the United Nations and the European Union stand in their efforts to attain a knowledge based economy at the moment, as well as propose directions of action within the United Nations (in particular the most important international organizations such as
WTO, OECD, WHO, ILO and UNESCO) and the European Union, in order to
give additional incentive for the development of a knowledge based economy.
The implications of this article could be an initiative to further strengthen the
circle of politicians, scientists, intellectuals, experts, state officers and businessmen
who are ready to network around the idea to support an integrative and international approach to the development of a knowledge based economy,
where public international law matters are not the last topic to be addressed.

Knowledge as the key asset of knowledge based economy

The concept of a knowledge-based economy serves to direct the attention
of policy-makers to science and technology issues and their role in the economy. To this end, it is a concept that allows one to talk about any issue of
science and technology and generate a large set of statistics under one roof.
(JESSOP, B. FAIRCLOUGH, N. & WODAK, R. (2008) p. 19) This concept has been
developed during the post industrial era. Throughout human history the key assets for the development of economy have been variously valued. In medieval times, land and labor were key assets responsible for creating new value. During the last two hundred years capital and labor have overtaken that role. Knowledge has, in the recent decades, emerged as the most important asset for creating new value. Here, the term knowledge is used not only in the sense of information technology or new technical solutions to particular technical or technological problems, but also as any innovative approach to do business that creates an additional value. Such an asset is not limited to technical innovations or improvements (patents or know-how), but also includes economic, organizational, communicational, ecological or other innovations or improvements.

Nowadays, the majority of physically based work is transformed into
knowledge based work. Technology and knowledge are now the key factors of
production of goods or services. With increased mobility of information and the
global work force, knowledge and expertise can be transported instantaneously around the world, and any advantage gained by one company can be eliminated by competitive improvements overnight. (Knowledge Economy, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.enterweb.org/know.htm>) This gives permanent incentives to other companies to further develop their knowledge and apply it in production processes. The only comparative advantage a company will enjoy will be its process of innovation – combining market and technology know-how with the creative talents of knowledge workers to solve a constant stream of competitive problems – and its ability to derive value from information. (Knowledge Economy, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.enterweb.org/know.htm>) The generation of knowledge is traditionally
conceived as a process internal to single entity. But it is increasingly a product of networked entities, often differently situated yet motivated to find new solutions to specific problems, needs, and circumstances – and, in many cases, to reveal these solutions to others. Enabled by technology, knowledge moves quickly within these networks – across firms, institutions, borders, and distances. (The Transformation of Knowledge, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://advancingknowledge.com>)

There are multiple factors behind this transformation, including:

- globalization of communications and commerce;
- commoditization of ICTs (and partial commoditization of codified knowledge);
- the increasing role of scientific research in innovation;
- advanced, integrative information infrastructure;
- modularization, vertical disaggregation, and outsourcing; and expanded value chains and clusters with new categories of actors. (The Transformation of Knowledge, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://advancingknowledge.com>)

The key document on the knowledge based economy was published by the OECD in 1996 under the title „The Knowledge-Based Economy”. (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, (1996) Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/8/1913021.pdf>) It was followed by the OECD guidelines for competitiveness and coordinated OECD activities prompting institution building across public and private sectors, while knowledge management became a key discipline within larger firms; governments established knowledge ministries, departments and agencies and national states began to map their national innovation systems and measures to strengthen them. (Jessop, B. Fairclough, N. & Wodak, R. (2008) p. 25) Today, this paradigm challenges all other concepts of economic development, particularly in the European Union and developing countries where the OECD has substantial development programs.

Public International Law Matters to be unified

If we try to develop a future economy as knowledge based one, the role of public international law in this process can’t be side stepped. The ownership and transfer of ownership on land, capital or the workforce is regulated and protected by law in a uniform way worldwide. Various international organizations, their bodies and conferences have contributed that particular states have adopted international multilateral conventions and treaties having substantially
unified those matters. (For example, earlier bilateral conventions and, in last decades, substantial activities of the United nations and international organizations which are active under the UN umbrella have unified numerous matters covering that field. This includes trade and development, educational and cultural matters (particular treaties can be viewed here: viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx>)

This had to be done in order to ensure development of a fair system of competition and sustainable development of world’s economies. Similarly, the worldwide legal protection of knowledge and other key assets which are needed in order to develop the knowledge based economy is a condition for the development of a sustainable knowledge based economy. That is the condition for the stable functioning of the worlds’ economy. (We are witnessing a global economy crisis and a collapse of particular national economies, because insufficient care is devoted to the fact that the world is interconnected and that the crisis in one place today could cause problems in the other part of the world tomorrow, regardless of how far or how more developed it is.)

Matters which need to be unified for the sake of sustainable and even development of the knowledge based economy worldwide deal with laws regulating intellectual property (ownership and transfer), competition, labor, education, science and ecology. Competent global and regional international organizations and bodies should network in order to prepare and put into operation a number of international agreements regulating frames for the protection of knowledge and its disposition. Such international agreements should be adopted within particular national laws of their member states, in order to be implemented in practice. As the knowledge based economy is a paradigm, a multidisciplinary approach is needed in order to ensure this process will flow in an organized way and produce expected outcomes and results.

By over viewing the above mentioned matters, one could object as to why public international law should be addressed, when the majority of matters (intellectual property, competition or labor law) are private law matters. We should, however, have in mind that these are private law matters by content, and in order to achieve a unified approach of states concerning these private law matters, we need to use public international law as a tool. The unification should occur through global (UN and its specialized international organizations, such as WTO, OECD, ILO, WHO, UNESCO) and regional international organizations (EU, NAFTA, OAU and other) and their activities that impact member states. The first step in this process should be the preparation and adoption of international agreements covering related matters, which is the role of public international law and consists of various assignments to be presented to international organizations. These organizations, as well as the international agreements that they facilitate for negotiation and signing, are regulated by
public international law. Then, in the second step, the agreements will be adopted and implemented by states signatories.

Therefore, public international law should deal with the unification of laws through the activities of international organizations in their preparation of international multilateral agreements. These agreements represent framework which ensures the creation of an integral system of legal structures and environments facilitating the development of the knowledge based economy worldwide. We emphasize the term ‘worldwide’, because the absence of certain states from such a system could create ‘free havens’ for the infringement or creation of permanent obstacles to the sustainable and even development of the knowledge based economy. For example, if the intellectual property is not adequately protected in only a few states which cover the substantial part of the world’s market, this could cause abuse or copying of protected knowledge for use within those territories, hindering the sustainable and even spreading of knowledge economy throughout other countries. (This means that such “free havens” will be places where illicit companies will be able “for free” to use the knowledge attained through investments of those trusting in the system of protection, where only the owner of the protected knowledge (copyright, patent, trademark, design or other) can use it worldwide. Provided such a practice spreads to a substantial part of the market, it can jeopardize the development of the knowledge based economy.)

International Organizations to facilitate the process

The unification of law should take place throughout the world. There is an important role that various international organizations should play in carrying out that assignment. This should be the role of global international organizations, because they include the majority of existing states and, therefore, they can exert more power to influence the process. They can lead the process more efficiently than regional international organizations, which have a smaller number of members and are regionally limited.

The United Nations is a global international organization with 193 member states. The unification of international law is one of its numerous assignments. (The mandate for the activities in this field emanates from the Charter of the United Nations which, in its Preamble, sets the goal “to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained”. Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/preamble.shtml>)

The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are among its main bodies which coordinate such activities, while the Commission for Inter-
national law is the technical body undertaking the preparative activities and managing the processes. (Established in 1948, the International Law Commission's mandate is the progressive development and codification of international law, in accordance with article 13(1)(a) of the Charter of the United Nations. The International Law Commission is constituted of 34 members, elected for a five-year period (quinquennium) sessions. The International Law Commission holds its annual session in Geneva, Switzerland for a period of ten to twelve weeks (as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations). Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.un.org/law/ilc>) However, specialized international organizations within the United Nations should assume most of the activities related to the regulation of the subject matter. These organizations are specialized just for that and their assignments can be done by creating frame rules that will ensure an adequate environment for the development of the knowledge based economy. The World Trade Organization has an important role among specialized international organizations as it covers the matters of intellectual property and competition. These matters are essential for the protection and transfer of knowledge. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is also important as it covers the matters of education and science. The matter of ecology or environmental protection is dealt with by the World Health Organization, as well as the International Labor Organization, which also covers the matter of labor. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has an important role in supporting economic development, development of human resources and innovation.

The activity of a single international organization can not lead to success, because a complex and multilevel approach is needed. Therefore, all of them should be engaged in a network. Among these global international organizations, one should be the leading one within that network. There are strong indicators to suggest that this role should be taken on by the World Trade Organization. The reasons for this are the following:

The law regulating intellectual property is a particularly important field of law for this purpose, as it regulates ownership, transfer or use of knowledge. In addition, it covers not only the matters of knowledge contained in patents or innovations, but also the knowledge which is the subject of trademarks, designs, copyright and other specific intellectual property rights, like protection of plants, seed and other. (The protection of knowledge has been regulated by the international agreement on trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS, Appendix 1C of the Marrakesh Declaration of April 15, establishing World Trade Organization, (1994) viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm#TRIPs>) This also includes the area of innovation. Innovation relates to the wide area of organizational, communication, marketing, financial, legal and other matters which represent
the specific knowledge needed for development. WTO is also competent in matters of restrictions of trade of goods and services (competition and unfair competition law). Thereby, it has an insight into the various ways of organizing activities undertaken by states, their institutions, companies and their associations in order to protect, give incentive to, restrict or undertake measures in support of the development and deployment of knowledge, as well as in order to punish particular behaviors or measures undertaken against such processes. WTO has developed a system of dispute settlement, being able to ensure the implementation of decisions of bodies applying the rules on particular member states misusing or offending them. (Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.wto.org/ english/docs_e/legal_e/28-dsu.pdf>) This creates the basis for the development of instruments for the implementation of measures against offence or misuse. As the concept of sustainable development includes the care of environmental protection and workforce, there are strong advocacies that WTO shall also regulate these aspects when having an impact on the trade. For example, environmental policy, human rights, labor, and competition policy are not directly within the jurisdiction of the WTO, but in each of these areas trade and the trading system have influenced policymaking. (Guzman, AT. (2004) p. 304). Certain authors find that the WTO should focus on free trade of goods and services, which is “a surer – if more indirect and incremental – path, not only to economic prosperity, but to improvements in the environment, labor, public health, and human rights around the world”. (McGinnis, JO. Movsesian, ML. (2004) p. 365)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is one of the main UN agencies with an explicit mandate for the promotion of science and technology for development. (OECD, (2009) page 34) UNESCO functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. The Organization also serves as a clearinghouse – for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge – while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. In short, UNESCO promotes international co-operation among its 193 Member States and six Associate Members in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. (About UNESCO, Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=3328&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html>) This organization as the member of the network would have the role to disseminate knowledge through various programs worldwide. Its activities in education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information can foster and accelerate the processes of the development of the knowledge based economy, while unification of international law would not be at the core of its actions.
The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), established in 1964, promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. UNCTAD has progressively evolved into an authoritative knowledge-based institution whose work aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development. (Viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://wwwunctadorg/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=1530&lang=1>) Its key functions are to be a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, aimed at consensus building, research, policy analysis and data collection and to provide technical assistance. As a network member it could substantially contribute to the dissemination of the concept within developing countries.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) traces its roots to the Marshall Plan. Today, it groups 30 member countries committed to democratic government and the market economy and provides a forum where governments can compare and exchange policy experiences, identify good practices and promote decisions and recommendations. Dialogue, consensus, peer review and pressure are at the very heart of OECD. The Organizations' mission is essentially to help governments and society reap the full benefits of globalization, while tackling the economic, social and governance challenges that can accompany it. It places a high priority on deciphering emerging issues and identifying policies that work in order to help policy makers. (OECD (2008) page 9, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://wwwocecdorg/dataoecd/ 39/19/40556222.pdf>) Although it has a limited number of members, it is a global international organization which has already demonstrated an interest to promote the development of the knowledge based economy. Having in mind its core activities, OECD can not be the coordinator of activities concerning the unification of international law, but rather the useful disseminator.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has also supported projects for the development of the knowledge based economy. (UNDP has supported the Conference on Financing of Development and Transition to Knowledge based Economy in New York, 11-12 December 2000, viewed 11May 2009, details: <http://wwwun-documentsnet/ie/lfdd-kbe.htm>) It could be seen that international organizations already have tipped this question, but there is no integrative and organized approach to the unification of international law in this matter. The key integrator of the process of unification of international law supporting the development of the knowledge based economy needs to be identified within the network of international organizations already mentioned. Due to the reasons mentioned above, this should be the WTO.
The activities of global international organizations could be easier spread within particular regions, if assisted by regional international organizations, such as the EU, NAFTA, OAU and others.

Currently the widest and the most concrete activities have been undertaken within the EU. It has set up as "...a strategic goal for the next decade: to become the most dynamic and competitive knowledge based economy in the world" (Lisbon 2007 EU Council Strategy Objective, p. 3, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/80_Knowledge%20Economy%20EU%20Spring%20Council.pdf>) These goals were developed into particular measures and programs, which are widely implemented in its member states. In the AHO Report (Lisbon 2007 EU Council Strategy Objective, p. 4, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/80_Knowledge%20Economy%20EU%20Spring%20Council.pdf>), which evaluates EU programs in the development of the knowledge based economy, the emphasis is on the following:

a. Create innovation friendly markets in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, energy, environment, transport, security and digital content. Each sector should have an independent high level coordinator to coordinate action in each area,

b. Treble the share of the Structural Funds spent on research and development. The 3% target is an indicator, not an end in itself. The productivity of research and development also had to be increased by greater resources for science, industrial research and development and science-industry links, and

c. The Greater resource mobility, including cross-border mobility of labor, new financial instruments to provide venture capital, and mobility in organization and knowledge through European technology platforms and clusters.

As far as the results of another analysis show "...at the European level, a common definition does not yet exist. Knowledge may be clearly defined but when it comes to the knowledge-based economy and to a way towards the development of such a society, a clear and commonly accepted definition may be more limiting than useful and so it is doubtful whether a commonly accepted definition can, or even should be reached." (Greece's Path to the European Knowledge Society, page 2, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.efmn.info/files/efmn-brief57.pdf>) Different paths can be followed for the development of a country. That different degrees of development exist among countries does not necessarily mean that paths taken in the past were wrong. Nevertheless a path followed that does not allow for the positive integration and exploitation of the country's culture, specificities and strengths is not an
So, the EU has frames and particular measures and projects supporting the development of the knowledge-based economy, using its cross-border and international development programs as instruments to approximate towards the objective defined by the Lisbon Treaty in 2007.

One of the goals of the EU is to achieve an integrated Europe. Hence, the strive for integration has very much focused on aspects like process innovations and cost reduction. (Innovation Policy in a Knowledge-Based Economy, (2000) p. 16, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <www.proinno-europe.eu/extranet/...&filename=knowledge_based_economy.pdf>)

The knowledge-driven economy calls for more dynamism and risk taking with respect to (product) innovation. This calls to the foreground a much stronger emphasis on the role that SME can play in the knowledge-driven economy. Four priorities seem to stand out and need to be addressed:

- **ICT exploitation:** Advantage should be taken by European firms and institutes to exploit the possibilities and chances that ICT offer. These ICT enable increased interconnectivity between knowledge agents through (virtual) networking.

- **Intellectual Property Rights:** Patents, copyrights, design registration can be important instruments to codify and commodity knowledge and hence, the diffusion of knowledge. Their dissemination should be further stimulated.

- **Knowledge Mobility and Training:** The growing importance of tacit knowledge calls for the greater mobility of knowledge and knowledge workers, as well as training.

- **Funding conditions (financial and fiscal):** should be geared to more innovative risk taking and better rewards thereof. (Innovation Policy in a Knowledge-Based Economy, (2000) p. 17-8, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <www.proinno-europe.eu/extranet/...&filename=knowledge_based_economy.pdf>)

The activities within the EU have been substantially concentrated on ICT regulation, as well as the support to R&D and implementation of outcomes of these activities within the economy. Numerous directives have been brought that regulate ICT activities. (Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7.03.2002. on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services, official journal of the European Communities, L108/51 of 24.04.2002. 3 Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7.03.2002 on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, official journal...

How the measures undertaken by the EU have their effects on its member states can be viewed on the example of Greece, trying to catch up to more developed EU member states, defining its key drivers of change into the knowledge based economy.

Greece should invest more in the field of human resources. Special emphasis should be placed in the differentiation and quality of products and services, education and training, health and tourism through the application of new technologies that will help improve competitiveness and quality of life. Innovation should be promoted as a major political target and as a major prerequisite for development at all levels – the state, the economy and society. The creation of an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship that shall favor the development of new ideas and risk-taking should also be promoted. It is necessary to promote the collaboration between research and industry. This could be achieved by adjusting the way knowledge is produced, used and diffused by Research and Educational institutions as well as enterprises and organizations, according to the characteristics of a Knowledge society; this way, the demand for training and life-long learning will be initiated from the ‘basis’ and the ‘supply’ shall meet the market needs. The social partners should reconsider their role. They should consider new emerging forms of work and types of employees and strengthen their participation in the formulation of work related policies. All the ministries should engage in the coordination, evaluation and control of the effectiveness of their activities and the measures and actions taken in all policy fields in the pursuance of the commonly agreed vision. The private sector should reconsider their role in terms of responding to the growing importance of innovation and differentiation of products and services to preserve and strengthen their competitive advantages. (Greece's Path to the European Knowledge Society, p. 2, viewed 11 May 2009, details: <http://www.efmn.info/files/efmn-brief57.pdf>)
Networking or International Conference on Unification of International Law in support to the development of knowledge based economy

It is obvious that the path towards the knowledge based economy goes wriggly, where international organizations, which could lead or facilitate the process of the unification of international law matters, that are important for the process, have only fragmentally intervened. Therefore, the concerted and integrated activities of various networked international organizations being aware and acting in pursuit of the same objective are expected. Only in that way this process can be well organized and have synergy effects.

The international conference on unification of international law in support of the development of the knowledge based economy could resolve the existing lack of coordination in the process. However, the matters which are needed to be regulated are very wide and cover various fields of international law. Therefore, such a conference could last a long time. It should gather numerous experts covering different expertise. In addition, comprehensive preparative activities would be indispensable and would take the most substantial part of the action. Due to this, a conference might only be the form in which the final results of the activities of various networked international organizations and other participants of the process would be finally adopted and presented to the world.

Concerted activities of the network of international organizations, which would distribute the assignments defined by the UN Economic and Social Council and the WTO, as the coordinator of the network for this purpose, would be much more efficient. Therefore, we must have in mind the existing level of communication technologies. Such a network, based on a previously defined plan, would prepare and define needed rules for the framework international conventions covering particular matters important for the development of the knowledge based economy (laws on intellectual property, competition, education, labor, and other). The assignments should then be distributed and activities implemented through international organizations, such as UNESCO, OECD, ILO, WHO, UNCTAD, while the overall process would be coordinated by the WTO, which will, by itself, undertake major activities on the unification of the legal matters mentioned above.

Conclusions

The conclusions on how to continue the process, from the point of view of the international law, would concentrate around the following:

1. As far as the public international law contribution is concerned, the international conference on the unification of laws essential for the
development of a knowledge based economy should be summoned within the frames of the United Nations, resulting with international conventions covering this matter. However, this conference should be the final phase of activities of the network of international organizations coordinated by the WTO, which will prepare the particular international agreements covering the matter of importance for the development of the knowledge based economy and submit them to the conference in order to finalize the process.

2. The European Union’s experience with this topic, including existing policies and legislation (EU directives and regulations) should be widely used by the international community, representing examples of the best practices. The objectives, defined in the Lisbon Treaty, the particular legislative solutions, as well as the measures and programs implemented by the EU Commission show the concerted efforts within the EU to create conditions for the development of the knowledge based economy in its member states, as well as in states where the EU implements its programs.

3. The efforts related to the support, as far as this topic is concerned, should be institutionalized into an international movement and put into the frames of the United Nations, in order to create sustainability and wide public support for the action. Namely, the United Nations is an international organization with a wide participation of the international community, having at its disposal all the resources needed to unify law in particular legal matters. The knowledge based economy concept up to now has been disseminated mostly due to certain United Nations’ specialized organizations (OECD, UNDP). If there was networking between additional specialized international organizations, most of them acting in the frames of the United Nations, the process would be facilitated and accelerated.

4. Scientific circles around the world should be encouraged by various funds supporting the research and writing on this topic, interdisciplinary, and to reveal their results publicly. Beside the institutional support to the process, the engagement of knowledgeable scientists with good reputations and references is also important. The human factor, especially in the sense of participation in the process of those who have a good reputation as experts in particular fields of law that will be covered, could help the process in being managed and implemented in an easier way. Their contribution to the quality of the work that is to be done would be indispensable.
5. A worldwide campaign in favor of the unification of international law in support of the development of the knowledge based economy as the global economy should be launched. Good PR is always a significant factor for the success of the overall action. Therefore, this activity, although mentioned as the last one, would have a very important role in the process of the unification of international law related to the matters of importance for the creation of the adequate environment in order to develop the knowledge based economy worldwide.

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