

# B2 Information on Intergovernmental Organizations B2

## EP EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION (EPO) EP

### General information

Name of Office:	European Patent Office (EPO)		
Location:	Headquarters at Munich: Bob-van-Benthem-Platz 1 80469 München Germany	Branch at The Hague: Patentlaan 2 2288 EE Rijswijk Netherlands	Filing Office at Berlin: Gitschiner Str. 103 10969 Berlin Germany
Mailing address:	80298 München Germany	Postbus 5818 2280 HV Rijswijk Netherlands	10958 Berlin Germany
Telephone:	(49-89) 2399-4500 00 800 80 20 20 20 (Customer Services)	(31-70) 340-4500	(49-30) 25901-4500
Facsimile machine:	(49-89) 2399-4465	(31-70) 340-3016	(49-30) 25901-840
E-mail:	support@epo.org		
Internet:	www.epo.org		
Does the Office accept the filing of documents by means of telecommunication (PCT Rule 92.4)?	Yes, by facsimile		
Which kinds of documents may be so transmitted?	All kinds of documents with the exception of authorizations and priority documents		
Must the original of the document be furnished in all cases?	Filing of the international application: yes, preferably simultaneously, but in any event not later than one month from the date of the invitation by the EPO Other documents: only upon invitation by the EPO <sup>1</sup>		
Does the Office send notifications via e-mail in respect of international applications?	No		
Would the Office accept evidence of mailing a document, in case of loss or delay, where a delivery service other than the postal authorities is used (PCT Rule 82.1)?	Yes, provided that the delivery service is Chronopost, DHL, Federal Express, Flexpress, SkyNet, TNT, Transworld or UPS		

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<sup>1</sup> See OJ EPO 2007, Special Edition No. 3, page 7 *et seq.*

# B2 Information on Intergovernmental Organizations B2

## EP EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION (EPO) EP

[Continued]

<p>Does the Office excuse delays in meeting time limits due to the unavailability of electronic means of communication (PCT Rule 82<i>quater</i>.2(a))?</p>	<p>Yes, delays in meeting time limits could be excused where any of the permitted means of electronic filing at the EPO notified under Rule 89<i>bis</i>, or means of online payment, was unavailable for a minimum of a continuous four-hour period on a specific working day. Rule 82<i>quater</i>.2 will not be applied by the EPO if a means of electronic filing is unavailable for less than four hours and an announcement of the outage has been published at least two working days in advance. In cases where the advance notice indicated that an outage was to last for less than four hours, but eventually lasted longer, the EPO will consider applying Rule 82<i>quater</i>.2. An unplanned outage, however, does not necessarily have to last a minimum of four hours to qualify for the application of Rule 82<i>quater</i>.2 by the EPO. If the unavailability of a means of electronic communication, or means of online payment, is qualified as an outage by its technical services, the EPO will consider applying Rule 82<i>quater</i>.2<sup>2</sup>.</p>
<p>Is the Office prepared to allow applicants to make applications available to the WIPO Digital Access Service for Priority Documents (DAS) (PCT Rule 17.1(b-<i>bis</i>)?)</p>	<p>Yes, the Office is prepared to allow applicants to make international and European patent applications available to the WIPO DAS<sup>3</sup></p>
<p>Competent receiving Office for nationals and residents of the following countries:</p>	<p>Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, <a href="#">Montenegro</a>,<sup>4</sup> Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom: European Patent Office (EPO) (the applicant may also choose to file with the national Office of the country of which he is a national or resident or with the International Bureau of WIPO) (see Annex C)</p>
<p>Competent designated (or elected) Office for the granting of a European patent for the following countries:</p>	<p>Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, <a href="#">Montenegro</a>,<sup>4</sup> Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom: European Patent Office (EPO) (see National Phase)</p>
<p>Competent designated and elected Office for requesting extension of a European patent to the following countries:</p>	<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>

[Continued on next page]

<sup>2</sup> For the relevant notification by the Office refer to the *Official Notices (PCT Gazette)* dated 26 November 2020, pages 254 *et seq.* and Notice from the EPO dated 22 October 2020 concerning the procedures and safeguards which apply under the EPC and the PCT in the event of outages of means of electronic filing and other online services (OJ EPO 2020, A120).

<sup>3</sup> For further details, see OJ EPO 2019, A27.

<sup>4</sup> [For all international applications filed on or after 1 October 2022.](#)

# B2 Information on Intergovernmental Organizations B2

## EP EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION (EPO) EP

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Competent designated and elected Office for requesting validation of a European patent in the following countries:	Cambodia, <sup>5</sup> Morocco, <sup>6</sup> Republic of Moldova, <sup>7</sup> Tunisia, <sup>8</sup>
Types of protection available via the PCT:	European patents
Provisions of the European Patent Convention concerning international-type search:	None
Provisional protection after international publication:	The protection granted in each State party to both the PCT and the European Patent Convention is indicated under the heading “Where the designation is made for the purposes of a European patent” for such States. See also, for further information, Articles 67 and 153 of the European Patent Convention and the EPO brochure “National law relating to the EPC”.

### Information of interest if the EPO is a designated (or elected) Office

Time when the name and address <sup>9</sup> of the inventor must be given if the EPO is a designated (or elected) Office:	May be in the request or may be furnished later. If not already complied with within the time limit applicable under PCT Article 22 or 39(1), the Office will invite the applicant to comply with the requirement within a time limit fixed in the invitation.
Are there special provisions concerning the deposit of microorganisms and other biological material?	Yes (see Annex L)

<sup>5</sup> For international applications filed on or after 1 March 2018.

<sup>6</sup> For international applications filed on or after 1 March 2015.

<sup>7</sup> For international applications filed on or after 1 November 2015.

<sup>8</sup> For international applications filed on or after 1 December 2017.

<sup>9</sup> For further details, refer to the Notice from the European Patent Office dated 22 February 2021 concerning the amendment of Rules 19 and 143 EPC, OJ EPO 2021, A12.