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Reference	Application No./Patent No.
Applicant/Proprietor	

**Communication concerning the priority document**

With respect to the filing of the certified priority document(s) for the above-mentioned European patent application, we would like to inform you as follows:

- 1) The International Bureau [IB] has not received the priority document from the PCT receiving Office [RO] despite the applicant's request under Rule 17.1(b) PCT. Please note that as long as the priority document is missing, substantive examination can only begin if the patentability of the claimed subject-matter is not dependent on the validity of the priority right. However, no European patent will be granted as long as the priority document is not filed.
- 2) If it is not possible for the PCT receiving Office [RO] to produce the certified priority document(s) for the time being, you are requested to file with the EPO:
  - proof that the RO cannot produce the priority document(s), i.e. a copy of the relevant correspondence containing a clear statement by the RO that it cannot locate the application(s) in question, indicating the number and date of filing, together with
  - a copy of the document(s) as originally filed with the RO for the priority application(s), certified as identical by the attorney (e.g. by affidavit).

The above evidence as well as the copy certified in this way, by way of exception, will be accepted as the priority document within the meaning of Rule 53(1) EPC.

Therefore, you are invited to notify the EPO whether you are prepared to submit the priority document or a substitute document as mentioned under point 2) above, within **four months** from notification of this communication.

**Receiving Section**

