

# **BR/GT I/37 e/70**

## **Travaux Préparatoires EPC 1973**

### **Comment:**

The collection represents purely an internal research tool for the purpose of Directorate Patent Law of the European Patent Office. No guarantee can be given for its completeness or correctness.

The documents produced before 1969 cannot be provided in English as this was not an official language in the period before that date. These documents therefore are provided in French and German.



INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE  
FOR THE SETTING UP OF A EUROPEAN  
SYSTEM FOR THE GRANT OF PATENTS

Luxembourg, 2 April 1970  
B./GT I/37/70

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- Secretariat -

WORKING PARTY I

WORKING DOCUMENT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT  
CONVENTION FOR A  
EUROPEAN SYSTEM FOR THE GRANT OF PATENTS

GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR  
THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Recommendations made by Working Party I to Working Party IV



I. 1. Number of applications expected to be filed with the European Patent Office

On the assumption that the EPO will commence its activity in 1975 for all areas of technology, and recalling that it will still be possible to obtain national patents by means of the national procedures, Working Party I estimates, on the basis of the "three States theory", which leads to a conservative evaluation, that

40,000 applications

may be expected in that year. The Working Party considers that this would be a minimum figure.

2. Number of examiners required to process these applications

A. (a) On the assumption that a request for examination may be made within a period of 7 years from the filing of the application, Working Party I estimates that, out of 100 applications:

- 52 will give rise to a request for examination and
- 10 will give rise to opposition proceedings.

(b) On the assumption that the period referred to under (a) is 2 years, out of 100 applications:

- 72 would give rise to a request for examination and
- 14 would give rise to opposition proceedings.

B. On the basis of the working times required for each of the various operations in the procedure for grant, the number of examiners would be as follows:

- for case A (a) : 390 examiners
- for case A (b) : 534 examiners

These two figures have been obtained by increasing the figures given in Annex 2, page 3, as amended, by 7 % as a safety measure.

## II. Total number and grading of European Patent Office staff

1. On the assumption of deferred examination with a 7-year request period, the total staff of the EPO would be 1,320 persons, distributed as in Annex 3, i.e.:

- 562 employees in Class A
- 142 employees in Class B
- 475 employees in Class C
- 141 employees in Class D

2. Working Party IV is to calculate the total number and grading of EPO staff for the case of deferred examination with a 2-year request period, taking into account the contents of Annex 3, and on the basis of an additional 144 examiners.

III. Publication expenses of the European Patent Office

Working Party IV should assume that:

1. The cost of printing patent specifications will be completely covered by the publication fees and by the sale of the said specifications.
  2. The cost of publishing the Official Journal and the European Patent Bulletin will be completely covered by the proceeds of the sale of the said publications.
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