Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

The European patent grant procedure

Invention

European patent application

- Request (obligatory), preferably on EPO Form 1001
- Description (obligatory)
- Claims
- Drawings (if any)
- Abstract

Filing offices
- EPO Berlin
- EPO The Hague
- EPO Munich
- National patent offices

Filing fee (possibly incl. additional fee for the 36th and each subsequent page)
Search fee
(Claims fees for the 16th and each subsequent claim)

Examination on filing and as to formal requirements

Search relating to the state of the art

Search report and non-binding opinion on patentability

Publication of application

18 months after filing date
or earliest priority date

Provisional patent protection can be obtained in all states designated. Applicants may claim reasonable compensation from competitors who infringe their patent applications through imitation.

Examination fee
Designation fee
Extension fees (if applicable)

Examination of application

Opportunity to amend claims and description

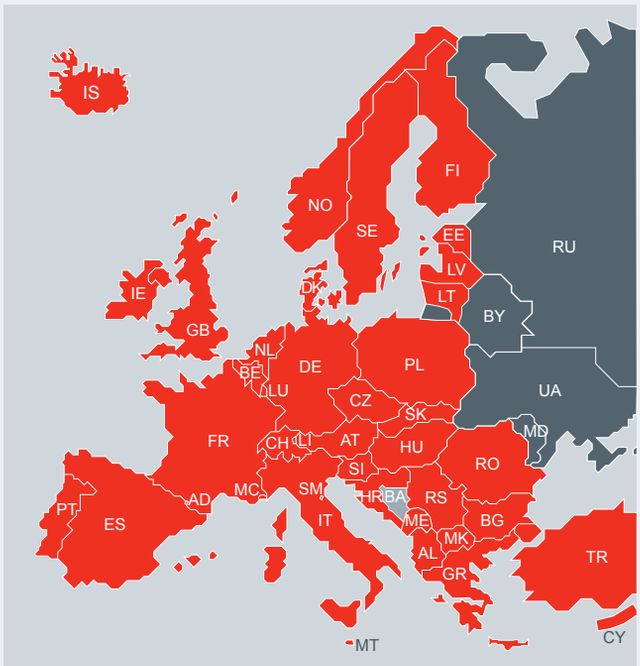
Renewal fees for the third and subsequent years

Translation of the claims into the official languages of the EPO and fees for grant and publication of patent specification

Grant of patent
Publication of patent specification

Full patent protection against infringement (unlicensed use of invention by competitors)
Validation in the designated states
Opposition by third parties within 9 months from publication of the mention of grant
Patentee may limit or revoke the patent

EPC contracting states



Detailed information on the European patent grant procedure can be found at:
www.epo.org/patents/One-Stop-Page.html