

European Union:

As of April 01, 2003 the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) will register European Community Designs. This will allow for the first time to obtain protection for a design in the entire European Union. Applications are accepted since January 01, 2003.

A European Community design protection may be applied for the entirety of the below mentioned states (European Union):

Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden.

Advantage of a European Community design application:

The application is filed in one language only and the registration proceedings are carried out centrally in one language. The cost is thus substantially lower than in the case of a respective number of national applications.

TOPIC:

**NEW EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
DESIGN PROTECTION AS OF
APRIL 01, 2003**

A special feature relates to the unregistered design protection according to EU Law, which already starts when a new design with specific characteristics is made accessible to the public within the EU for the first time. Said unregistered design protection is limited to three years.

1-2003

Patent & Trade Mark News
for Clients and Colleagues

German and European Patent
and Trade Mark Attorney
Dr. Wolfram Schlimme
Rosenheimer Landstr. 115
D - 85521 Ottobrunn
Phone: + 49 - 89 - 609 00 69
Facsimile: + 49 - 89 - 609 00 60
e-mail: info@wspatent.com
www.wspatent.com

Newsletter No. 1-2003
Januar, 2003

