

European Patent Office:

As of December 01, 2002 a new country will become member of the European Patent Convention (EPC):

Slovenia (SI) may then also be designated in a European Patent application. 25 European countries are now members of the EPC.

A European Patent may be applied for the below mentioned states:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia *), Turkey, Cyprus.

*) as of December 01, 2002

Granted European Patents may be extended to:

Albania, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia and Rumania.

If the United Kingdom is designated in a European Patent the patent protection can also be extended to **Hong Kong.**

Advantage of a European patent application:

The application is filed in one language only and the examination 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:

A FURTHER COUNTRY (SLOVENIA) WILL JOIN THE EUROPEAN PATENT CONVENTION ON DECEMBER 01, 2002

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Patent & Trade Mark News
for Clients and Colleagues

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