

European Patent Office:

On January 01, 2003 a new country became member of the European Patent Convention (EPC):

Hungary (HU) may since then also be designated in a European Patent application. 26 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, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Cyprus.

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
(HUNGARY) JOINED THE
EUROPEAN PATENT
CONVENTION ON
JANUARY 01, 2003**

