

## European Patent Office:

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

**Rumania** (RO) may now also be designated in a European Patent application. 27 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, Rumania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Cyprus.**

Granted European Patents may be extended to:

**Albania, Latvia, Lithuania and Macedonia.**

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  
(RUMANIA) JOINED THE  
EUROPEAN PATENT  
CONVENTION ON  
MARCH 01, 2003**

