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International

European Patent Office

The European Patent Office (EPO) offers inventors a uniform application procedure which enables them to seek patent protection in up to 40 European countries. Supervised by the Administrative Council, the Office is the executive arm of [the European Patent Organisation](#).

Coordination of ECLI in the European Patent Office is carried out by [Publication Department](#).

Postal address

Postfach 90

1031 Vienna

Austria

Address

Rennweg 12

1030 Vienna

Austria

Country code

The country code for the European Patent Office to be used in the second element of the ECLI is: [EP]

Generation of national ECLI

Components of the ECLI to identify decisions of the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office:

ECLI abbreviation

Country code: EP

Court code: BA (BA= Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office)

Year when the decision was rendered (format YYYY)

Ordinal number composed of:

Decision case number (original case number without the slash). Composed of 7 digits --> 1 digit (type of decision) + 4 digits (ordinal number of the decision) + 2 digits (last two digits of the year of filing).

Codes for the type of decisions at the EPO:

D : Disciplinary Board of Appeal

G : Enlarged Board of Appeal

J : Legal Board of Appeal

T : Technical boards of appeal

W : decisions on protest cases

R : decisions on petitions for review

A dot

Date of the decision (format YYYYMMDD)

Example:

ECLI:EP:BA:2002:D000300.20020503

EP= European Patent Office

BA= Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office

2002 - year in which the decision was rendered (example)

D000300= D0003/00 (decision case number)

20020503 = 2002.05.03 (date of the decision)

Use of the ECLI

The ECLI is used to uniquely identify decisions of the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office.

Search by ECLI is enabled via the EPO Board of Appeal decisions database (see link below)

Related links

[EPO Board of Appeal decisions database](#)

[Case Law of the Boards of Appeal](#)

[European Patent Register](#)

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