

Draft Agreement on the establishment of a European patent litigation system

The present document contains the latest draft of the European Patent Litigation Agreement (EPLA). It includes in particular the changes agreed in September 2005 by the Sub-group of the Working Party on Litigation* relating to the implementation of Directive 2004/48/EC on the enforcement of intellectual property rights. The draft was submitted to the Working Party on Litigation for information on occasion of its meeting on 14.12.2005.

* The Sub-group was set up in October 2000 by the Working Party on Litigation to produce a draft agreement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject		Page
Preamble		1
PART I	GENERAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS	3
CHAPTER I	GENERAL PROVISIONS	3
Article 1	Definitions	3
Article 2	System of law for litigation concerning European patents	4
Article 3	European Patent Judiciary	4
Article 4	Facultative Advisory Council	5
Article 5	Judicial independence	5
Article 6	Legal status	5
Article 7	Seat	6
Article 8	Privileges and immunities	6
Article 9	Liability	6
CHAPTER II	EUROPEAN PATENT COURT	8
Article 10	Court of First Instance	8
Article 11	Court of Appeal	8
Article 12	Registry	8
CHAPTER III	ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE	9
Article 13	Composition	9
Article 14	Chair	9
Article 15	Meetings	9
Article 16	Languages	10
Article 17	Competence of the Administrative Committee in certain cases	10
Article 18	Voting	11
PART II	FINANCIAL PROVISIONS	12
Article 19	Budgetary funding	12
Article 20	Own resources of the European Patent Judiciary	12
Article 21	Level of fees, financial contributions from Contracting States	13
Article 21a	Financing of Regional Divisions	14
Article 22	Advances	16
Article 23	Budget	17
Article 24	Authorisation for expenditure	17
Article 25	Appropriations for unforeseeable expenditure	18

Article 26	Accounting period	18
Article 27	Preparation and adoption of the budget	18
Article 28	Provisional budget	18
Article 29	Budget implementation	19
Article 30	Auditing of accounts	19
Article 31	Financial Regulations	20
PART III	SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW, JURISDICTION AND EFFECT OF DECISIONS	21
CHAPTER I	SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW	21
Article 32	Substantive patent law to be applied by the European Patent Court	21
Article 33	Infringing acts	21
Article 34	Indirect infringement	22
Article 35	Limitations to the effects of the European patent	23
Article 36	Reversal of burden of proof	24
Article 37	Prior use	24
CHAPTER II	JURISDICTION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT AND EFFECT OF DECISIONS	25
Article 38	Application of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions	25
Article 39	Application of Regulation 44/2001	26
Article 40	Preliminary rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Communities	26
Article 41	Jurisdiction in respect of infringement and validity	26
Article 42	Decisions on validity	27
Article 43	Effect of decisions	29
Article 44	Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal	30
CHAPTER III	JURISDICTION OF NATIONAL COURTS	30
Article 45	Provisional and protective measures	30
Article 46	Provisional seizure	31
PART IV	PROCEDURE BEFORE THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT	32
CHAPTER I	GENERAL PROVISIONS	32
Article 48	Case management	32
Article 49	Public proceedings	32
Article 50	Right to be heard	32
Article 51	Parties	32
Article 51a	Oral proceedings	34
Article 52	Basis for decisions	34

Article 53	Evidence	34
Article 54	Production of evidence by other or third parties	35
Article 54a	Protection of confidential information	36
Article 55	Witnesses	37
Article 56	Statements by parties, witnesses and experts	37
Article 57	Court fees	37
Article 58	Costs	38
Article 59	Rules of Procedure	38
CHAPTER II	POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT	38
Article 60	General	38
Article 61	Astreinte	38
Article 62	Injunction	39
Article 63	Forfeiture	40
Article 64	Damages	40
Article 65	Kinds of damages	41
Article 66	Indemnification of a party	42
Article 67	Limitation of right to claim damages	43
Article 68	Right of information	42
Article 69	Power to replace an act of a party by a decision of the European Patent Court	44
CHAPTER III	PROVISIONAL AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES	44
Article 70	General	44
Article 71	Preliminary injunctions	46
Article 72	Orders for inspection of property	47
Article 73	Freezing orders	47
Article 74	Sequestration	48
Article 75	Other protective orders	48
PART V	PROCEDURAL REMEDIES	49
CHAPTER I	APPEAL	49
Article 76	Appeal	49
Article 77	Persons entitled to appeal	50
Article 78	Time limit and form	50
Article 79	Grounds for appeal	50
Article 80	New facts or evidence	50
Article 81	Effect	51
CHAPTER II	REVIEW OF DECISIONS	51
Article 82	Petition for review	51
Article 83	Procedure and decision on review	52

PART Va	FACULTATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL	53
Article 83a	Court of Appeal functioning as Facultative Advisory Council	53
Article 83b	Opinions delivered by the Facultative Advisory Council	53
Article 83c	Procedure regarding the delivery of opinions	53
Article 83d	Reservations	55
Article 83e	Financing	56
Article 83f	Voting rights in the Administrative Committee of Contracting States which have entered a reservation	57
PART VI	TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS	59
CHAPTER I	TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS	59
Article 84	Scope	59
Article 85	Jurisdiction of national courts during a transitional period	60
Article 86	Evaluation	60
CHAPTER II	FINAL PROVISIONS	61
Article 87	Texts supplementing the Agreement	61
Article 88	Signature, ratification	61
Article 89	Accession	61
Article 89a	Reservations	62
Article 90	Entry into force	62
Article 91	Initial contributions	63
Article 92	Duration of the Agreement	64
Article 93	Revision	64
Article 94	Denunciation	65
Article 95	Preservation of acquired rights	65
Article 96	Financial rights and obligations of a former Contracting State	65
Article 97	Languages of the Agreement	65
Article 98	Disputes between Contracting States	66
Article 99	Transmission and notifications	66

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT EUROPEAN PATENT LITIGATION AGREEMENT

Preamble

Sets out the endeavours of the Contracting States and the goals of the Agreement: improve the enforcement of European patents, enhance legal certainty and promote the uniform application and interpretation of European patent law.

Refers to the legal framework which surrounds the Agreement and from which many provisions are drawn: the EPC 2000, the TRIPs Agreement and Community law (in particular, the Agreement relating to Community patents of 1989, the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, Regulation 44/2001 and the Enforcement Directive).

PART I GENERAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS **Chapter I General provisions (Arts. 1 to 9)**

Set up a new international organisation, the European Patent Judiciary (EPJ), to settle litigation concerning the infringement and validity of European patents effective in the Contracting States which commit themselves to this new integrated judicial system.

List the organs of the EPJ: the European Patent Court and the Administrative Committee.

Set up the Facultative Advisory Council (FAC).

Lay down the autonomy, legal status, seat, privileges and immunities and liability of the EPJ, as well as the judicial independence of the European Patent Court.

Chapter II European Patent Court (Arts. 10 to 12)

Comprises the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal and the Registry.

The Central Division of the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal and the Registry shall be set up at the seat of the EPJ.

A number of Regional Divisions may be set up in the Contracting States by the Administrative Committee, and a sub-registry shall be set up at the location of any Regional Division.

Chapter III Administrative Committee (Arts. 13 to 19)

Composed of representatives of the Contracting States.

Supervises the European Patent Court, without prejudice to the Court's judicial independence.

Sets up Regional Divisions upon request, appoints judges and the Registrar and exercises legislative and budgetary powers.

PART II FINANCIAL PROVISIONS (Arts. 20 to 31)

Based on the assumption that the EPJ will be financed by its own resources (court fees).

Contributions by the Contracting States are foreseen if the EPJ is unable to balance its budget with its own resources (distribution key taking into account three elements: number of European patents effective in the Contracting States, actual litigation activity, equal distribution of a part of the costs).

Provisions on advances, budget, authorisation for expenditure, accounting period, auditing of accounts.

PART III SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW, JURISDICTION AND EFFECT OF DECISIONS

Chapter I Substantive patent law (Arts. 32 to 37)

Definitions of infringing acts and indirect infringement, rules governing limitations on the effects of European patents and reversal of the burden of proof when the subject-matter of the patent is a process for obtaining a new product, provisions concerning prior use.

Chapter II Jurisdiction and effect of decisions (Arts. 38 to 44)

The European Patent Court will deal with European patents effective in one or more of the Contracting States.

It will have jurisdiction in respect of actions for actual or threatened infringement or for a declaration of non-infringement, actions or counterclaims for revocation, and actions for damages or compensation derived from the provisional protection conferred by a published European patent application.

After a 7-year transitional period, the Court will have exclusive jurisdiction to try actions for revocation and actions for infringement where the alleged infringer is domiciled in a Contracting State or where all parties are in agreement; moreover, it will have non exclusive jurisdiction to try actions for infringement where the alleged infringement

occurred in a Contracting State even though the alleged infringer is not domiciled in a Contracting State.

Rules of Procedure will regulate the allocation of cases to the Central or a Regional Division of the Court of First Instance, taking account of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions as well as Regulation 44/2001: ordinary actions for revocation shall be brought before the Central Division; it will be possible to bring actions for infringement before either the Division of the country where the defendant is domiciled or the Division of the country where the alleged infringement occurred.

The application of Community law will be guaranteed by the Court of Justice of the European Communities which on request by the European Patent Court will issue preliminary rulings binding for the latter in so far as its decision takes effect in a Member State of the European Union.

The Contracting States will designate the European Patent Court as their national court for cases concerning the infringement and validity of European patents, so that decisions of the Court will be directly enforceable in all Contracting States without any form of recognition or exequatur.

Chapter III Jurisdiction of national courts (Arts. 45 to 47)

National courts will retain jurisdiction to order provisional and protective measures provided for by their national law and to order provisional seizure of goods as security for any damages, compensation, costs or any other payment resulting from proceedings before the European Patent Court.

PART IV PROCEDURE BEFORE THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT

Includes a chapter laying down basic procedural principles and two chapters on the powers of the European Patent Court and on provisional and protective measures.

Chapter I General Provisions (Arts. 48 to 59)

Lay down basic procedural provisions concerning case management, publicity, right to be heard, admissibility as a party, oral proceedings, party disposition.

Include a list of means of giving and obtaining evidence and rules on the onus of proof, production of evidence, witnesses, court fees and apportionment of costs (loser pays costs, apportionment when equitable).

Rules of Procedure shall lay down the details of proceedings before the European Patent Court.

Chapter II Powers of the European Patent Court (Arts. 60 to 69)

The Court's power to order measures, securities, sanctions and fines as laid down in the Agreement is provided for in a general provision.

Specific powers are defined: the European Patent Court may order

- astreintes, where a party does not comply with an order of the Court
- injunctions, such as orders to desist from infringing acts
- forfeiture, meaning the destruction or disposal of infringing goods, materials or devices
- damages, which may not be punitive but must be adequate to compensate for the injury suffered and restore the injured party to the position he would have been in if no infringement had taken place.

Chapter III Provisional and protective measures (Arts. 70 to 75)

Finally, the European Patent Court shall have the power to order provisional and protective orders such as inspection of premises and the preservation of evidence ("saisie contrefaçon"), freezing orders and sequestration of allegedly infringing goods.

PART V PROCEDURAL REMEDIES

Two procedural remedies will be available before the European Patent Court: from decisions of the Court of First Instance an appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal; as an extraordinary remedy any party may file a petition for review.

Chapter I Appeal (Arts. 76 to 81)

The appeal is the ordinary procedural remedy with suspensive effect.

As a general rule, only final decisions shall be appealable.

The appeal may only be based on the grounds that the facts alleged by the parties were not correctly established, or that, based on the established facts, the law was not correctly applied.

New facts or evidence may only be taken into consideration by the Court of Appeal in exceptional cases.

Chapter II Review of decision (Arts. 82 and 83)

As a limited judicial review, any party which is adversely affected by a decision against which an appeal is not or no longer possible may file a petition of review by the Court of Appeal.

A petition may only be filed on the grounds that a criminal act may have had an impact on the decision, or that a fundamental procedural defect has occurred in proceedings before the Court of Appeal.

PART Va FACULTATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (Arts. 83a to 83f)

The Court of Appeal shall perform the functions of the Facultative Advisory Council (FAC), i.e. deliver non-binding opinions on any point of law concerning European or harmonised national patent law, at the request of a national court or quasi-judicial authority.

Special provisions deal with the law applicable to the FAC and the procedure regarding the delivery of opinions. A reservation system enables the Contracting States to be bound only by Part Va, and thus to participate in FAC-related matters only (financing, voting rights in the Administrative Committee).

PART VI TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS (Arts. 85 to 99)

Clarify the application of the Agreement to effective European patents and pending patent applications.

Transitional period of seven years, where national courts of the Contracting States will have a parallel jurisdiction to the European Patent Court.

Provisions on signature, ratification, entry into force and revision.

The following abbreviations are used in the left margins:

Brussels Convention	Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, 1968
COPAC Statute	Protocol on the Statute of the Common Appeal Court
CPC 1989	Community Patent Convention, as amended by the Agreement relating to Community patents, 1989
Directive 2004/48/EC	Directive 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the enforcement of intellectual property rights
Directive 2004/27/EC	Directive 2004/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use
EPC	European Patent Convention as revised on 29 November 2000 (new text of the EPC, Special edition No 4 of the OJ EPO 2001)
Lugano Convention	Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, 1988
ProtLit 1989	Protocol on the settlement of litigation concerning the infringement and validity of Community patents
Regulation 44/2001	Council Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 of 22 December 2000 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters
RoP	Rules of Procedure of the European Patent Court (to be adopted by the Administrative Committee)
TRIPs	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, 1994

**DRAFT AGREEMENT
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A EUROPEAN PATENT LITIGATION SYSTEM**

Preamble

THE CONTRACTING STATES,

Preamble EPC 2000, Recital 1

CONSIDERING that co-operation among the countries of Europe in the field of patents renders a significant contribution to the legal and economic integration of Europe,

Mandate of Paris Inter-governmental Conference 1999

WISHING to promote the uniform application and interpretation of European patent law, to improve the enforcement of European patents and to enhance legal certainty by setting up a European Patent Judiciary to settle litigation concerning the infringement and validity of European patents effective in one or more of the Contracting States,

WISHING additionally to promote the uniform application and interpretation of European patent law as well as of harmonised national patent law by enabling the European Patent Judiciary to deliver non-binding opinions on any point of law concerning European or harmonised national patent law,

Preamble EPC, Recital 3
Preamble CPC 1989,
Recital 6

DESIRING, for this purpose, to conclude an Agreement on the Establishment of a European Patent Litigation System which constitutes a special agreement within the meaning of Article 149a of the European Patent Convention as revised on 29 November 2000, and within the meaning of Article 19 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property as revised on 14 July 1967,

Preamble CPC 1989,
Recital 1

CONSIDERING that it is essential for this Agreement not to conflict with the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and that the Court of Justice of the European Communities must be able to ensure the uniformity of the Community legal order,

CONSIDERING that it is also essential for this Agreement to take into account the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, annexed to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization of 15 April 1994,

MINDFUL that the European Patent Judiciary should have an international character and represent equitably the different legal cultures of Europe,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS

PART I GENERAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Definitions

- (a) "Contracting State" means a State party to this Agreement.
- (b) "Statute" means the Statute of the European Patent Court.
- (c) "European Patent Convention" means the Convention on the Grant of European Patents of 5 October 1973, as last revised on 29 November 2000.
- (d) "European patent" means a patent granted under the European Patent Convention.

(e) - (h) deleted

The terms "Court of First Instance", "Court of Appeal", "European Patent Court" and "Facultative Advisory Council" are constitutively defined by Arts. 3(2) and 4 in conjunction with Art. 83a Draft Agreement. The declaratory definitions relating to these bodies in Art. 1 Draft Agreement could be misleading, instead of having a clarifying effect. It is

therefore proposed that these definitions be deleted from Art. 1.

Title of ProtLit 1989

Art. 4(1) EPC

ProtLit 1989 Arts. 1(1) and 2(1)

Article 2 System of law for litigation concerning European patents

A system of law, common to the Contracting States, for the settlement of litigation concerning the infringement and validity of European patents is hereby established.

Article 3 European Patent Judiciary

(1) A European Patent Judiciary is hereby set up to settle litigation concerning the infringement and validity of European patents effective in one or more of the Contracting States. The European Patent Judiciary shall have judicial, administrative and financial autonomy.

(2) The organs of the European Patent Judiciary shall be:

(a) the European Patent Court, comprising the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal and a Registry

(b) the Administrative Committee.

(3) The European Patent Court shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Agreement.

(4) Subject to Article 5, the European Patent Court shall be supervised by the Administrative Committee.

Article 4 Facultative Advisory Council

Within the European Patent Judiciary, a Facultative Advisory Council shall be set up, functioning under the provisions of Part Va of this Agreement.

Article 5 Judicial independence

The European Patent Court, its judges and the Registrar shall enjoy judicial independence. In their decisions, the judges shall not be bound by any instructions and shall comply only with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 6 Legal status

(1) The European Patent Judiciary shall have legal personality.

(2) In each of the Contracting States, the European Patent Judiciary shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under the national law of that State; it may in particular acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and may be a party to legal proceedings.

(3) The European Patent Judiciary shall be represented by the President of the Court of Appeal.

Art. 23(3) EPC; the Registrar is included because of his important functions in and for the judicial procedure

Art. 5(1) and (2) EPC

Art. 5(3) EPC

ProtLit 1989 Art. 2(2)

Art. 8 EPC;
ProtLit 1989 Art. 4

See Art. 9(1) EPC 2000;
Art. 39(1) Europol Agreement.

Article 7 Seat

(1) The European Patent Judiciary shall have its seat in ***.

(2) The Court of First Instance shall comprise Regional Divisions located in those Contracting States in which such Divisions are set up in accordance with the Statute.

(3) Any Contracting State shall designate at least one national court which, if the European Patent Court wishes to conduct parts of the proceedings in that State, shall provide the facilities necessary for that purpose.

Article 8 Privileges and immunities

The Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Patent Judiciary, annexed to this Agreement, shall define the conditions under which the employees of the European Patent Judiciary and such other persons specified in that Protocol as take part in the work of the European Patent Judiciary, shall enjoy, in each Contracting State, the privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their duties.

Article 9 Liability

(1) The contractual liability of the European Patent Judiciary shall be governed by the law applicable to the contract in question.

See Art. 9(2) EPC 2000,
Brussels Convention Art. 5
No. 3, Art. 5 No. 3 EU-
Regulation 44/2001

Although it is conceivable that the courts of the state in which the European Patent Judiciary has its seat will be exclusively competent to deal with claims for damages, sentence 2 of paragraph 2 further underlines the concept of regionalisation. Moreover the liability of the judges from abroad participating in cases before the Regional Division shall be governed by the law of the Contracting State in which the Regional Division is located.

The third sentence has been drafted in the light of § 839(2) German Civil Code (BGB) and the interpretation of this provision by the courts. Such provisions have traditionally been considered a safeguard for judicial independence; in modern legal literature they are regarded as a safeguard for the res judicata effect of judicial decisions.

(2) In matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict the liability of the European Patent Judiciary in respect of any damage caused by it or its employees in the performance of their duties shall be governed by the law of [*state of seat of European Patent Judiciary*]. Where such damage is caused by a Regional Division, the members of a panel of this Regional Division or its employees, the law of the Contracting State in which this Regional Division is located shall apply.

If such damage occurs in connection with a judicial decision terminating proceedings before the European Patent Court, the European Patent Judiciary shall be liable only if this decision involved a criminal breach of duty and there is no legal remedy against it.

Cf. Art. 9 (3) EPC 2000

Maximum 3 Regional Divisions per Contracting State / group of Contracting States (see Draft Statute Arts. 19 and 20(1))

(3) The personal liability of the employees of the European Patent Court towards the European Patent Judiciary shall be laid down in their Service Regulations or conditions of employment.

CHAPTER II EUROPEAN PATENT COURT

Article 10 Court of First Instance

(1) The Court of First Instance shall comprise a Central Division set up at the seat of the European Patent Judiciary.

(2) The Administrative Committee shall have the power to set up or discontinue Regional Divisions of the Court of First Instance in accordance with the Statute.

Article 11 Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal shall be set up at the seat of the European Patent Judiciary.

Article 12 Registry

(1) The Registry shall be set up at the seat of the European Patent Judiciary. It shall be managed by the Registrar and perform the functions assigned to it by the Statute.

(2) A sub-registry shall be set up at the location of any Regional Division.

CHAPTER III ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Article 13 Composition

Art. 26(1) EPC

The Administrative Committee shall be composed of the representatives and alternate representatives of the Contracting States. Each Contracting State shall be entitled to appoint one representative and one alternate representative.

Article 14 Chair

Art. 27 EPC

(1) The Administrative Committee shall elect a chairman and a deputy chairman from among the representatives and alternate representatives of the Contracting States. The deputy chairman shall replace the chairman ex officio if the latter is prevented from carrying out his duties.

(2) The chairman and deputy chairman shall hold office for three years. They may be re-elected.

Article 15 Meetings

Art. 29(1) EPC

(1) Meetings of the Administrative Committee shall be convened by its chairman.

Art. 29(2) EPC

(2) The members of the Executive Committee, as established under the Statute, or their substitutes, may take part in the deliberations of the Administrative Committee.

(3) Representatives of any other Contracting State to the European Patent Convention and of States entitled to accede to that Convention shall, on reasoned request, be admitted as observers.

Art. 30(3) EPC

(4) The Administrative Committee may allow any intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisation to be represented by observers.

Art. 29(3) EPC

(5) The Administrative Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall also meet on the initiative of its chairman or at the request of at least three Contracting States or of the Executive Committee.

Art. 31(1) EPC

Article 16 Languages

The languages used in the deliberations of the Administrative Committee shall be English, French and German.

Art. 33 EPC

Article 17 Competence of the Administrative Committee in certain cases

(1) The Administrative Committee shall be competent to amend:

Letter (a): aiming at greater flexibility; see Art. 18(2)

(a) the provisions of the Statute

(b) the time limits laid down in this Agreement or the Statute.

(2) In conformity with this Agreement and the Statute, the Administrative Committee shall be competent to adopt or amend:

(a) the Rules of Procedure of the European Patent Court on a proposal from the Executive Committee, or from a Contracting State after hearing the Executive Committee

(b) its own Rules of Procedure

- (c) the Financial Regulations
 - (d) the Service Regulations setting out the conditions of employment of judges and other staff of the European Patent Judiciary
 - (e) the Rules relating to Fees and the amounts of fees to be charged in proceedings before the European Patent Court.
- (3) The Administrative Committee shall, in accordance with the Statute, appoint, re-appoint or remove from office, the judges and the Registrar of the European Patent Court.
 - (4) The Administrative Committee shall also perform any other duties assigned to it by this Agreement or the Statute.

Article 18 Voting

- (1) The right to vote in the Administrative Committee shall be restricted to the Contracting States. Each Contracting State shall have one vote.
- (2) A unanimous vote by the Contracting States represented and voting shall be required for the decisions which the Administrative Committee is empowered to take under Article 17, paragraph 1(a), and Article 86, second sentence.

Art. 34(1) EPC
Some delegations expressed general reservations concerning Art. 18, especially in view of the financial implications of the EPJ; however, delegations are prepared to lift these reservations as soon as there is more clarity in this respect.

Art. 35 EPC
UK, DE, DK, PT study
whether decisions under
Art. 21(2), 22(1) and 91
should require unanimity.

(3) A majority of three quarters of the votes of the Contracting States represented and voting shall be required for the decisions which the Administrative Committee is empowered to take under Article 17, paragraphs 1(b) and 2, Article 21, paragraph 2, Article 22, paragraph 1, Article 27, paragraph 2, Article 30, paragraph 4, and Article 91.

(4) Decisions other than those referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be taken by a simple majority of the Contracting States represented and voting.

(5) Abstentions shall not be considered as votes.

PART II FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 19 Budgetary funding

The budget of the European Patent Judiciary shall be financed from its own resources and, where necessary, from contributions made by the Contracting States. Regional Divisions shall be financed as laid down in Article 21a.

Article 20 Own resources of the European Patent Judiciary

The European Patent Judiciary's own resources shall consist of all its income from court fees and other sources.

Art. 37(a) and (c) EPC

Second sentence based on
suggestions by CH, DE, DK,
MC, NL, SE.

Art. 38(a) EPC

It is envisaged that the Contracting States should contribute to the budget of the European Patent Court in order to keep fees at a fair level. Court fees shall not be prohibitive and shall not constitute a serious obstacle for litigation before the Court, thus the provision should leave some flexibility as regards the principle of 100% self-financing of the European Patent Judiciary.

Art. 40(2) EPC

The distribution key now proposed is based on three elements, following suggestions by CH, DE, FI, MC, SE:

(a) number of European patents in force in a Contracting State (theoretical probability of patent litigation);

Article 21 Level of fees, financial contributions from Contracting States

(1) The court fees charged by the European Patent Court shall be fixed at such a level as to ensure a balance between the parties' right to fair access to the European Patent Court and the principle that the European Patent Judiciary's own resources should cover its costs.

(2) If the European Patent Judiciary is unable to balance its budget out of its own resources, the Contracting States shall remit to it financial contributions whose level shall be determined by the Administrative Committee in accordance with the distribution key laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4.

(3) Each Contracting State shall contribute as follows to the amount needed to balance the budget of the European Patent Judiciary:

(a) For x per cent of this amount, the Contracting State shall pay a proportion determined by the ratio of the number of European patents in force in that State to the number of European patents in force in all the Contracting States.

(b) European patents in force in a Contracting State and the subject of litigation before the European Patent Court (actual patent litigation);

(c) equal distribution of part of the costs.

$x = 40, y = 20 ?$

The distribution key should be stable for a specified period, but updated regularly.

First distribution key and initial contributions, see Article 91

Covering the cost of Regional Divisions centrally out of the European Patent Judiciary budget would mean that States with small Regional Divisions or none at all would also be indirectly financing other Contracting States' Regional Divisions through their contributions under Article 21(2). On the other hand, if States setting up a Regional Division were

(b) For x per cent of this amount, the Contracting State shall pay a proportion determined by the ratio of the number of European patents in force in that State and the subject of litigation before the European Patent Court to the number of all European patents which are the subject of litigation before the European Patent Court.

(c) y per cent of this amount shall be borne by the Contracting States in equal parts.

(4) The ratios referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b) shall be re-calculated every [five] years after the entry into force of this Agreement on the basis of the sum of the figures for the last three years preceding the year in which the re-calculation is to be made.

Article 21a Financing of Regional Divisions

(1) A Regional Division set up by a Contracting State or by a group of Contracting States shall be financed by that State or group of States. However, the salary of the judges in any Regional Division shall be covered by the budget of the European Patent Judiciary. The Administrative Committee shall fix the number of judges of a Regional Division which are to be so financed.

prepared to bear the cost but then claim a reduction in their financial contributions, the other Contracting States would also participate indirectly in the financing of Regional Divisions. It is therefore proposed that a Contracting State setting up a Regional Division staffed and equipped in accordance with its own needs bear all the costs except the judges' salaries. All judges at the European Patent Court should be treated equally, irrespective of the Contracting State in which they work. The Administrative Committee will have to adopt a salary scheme which should take account of the fact that, at least in the initial phase, there might be only a small number of judges working full time, some working part time, and some dealing only with single cases.

A Regional Division's support staff, in particular the registrars, must also be adequately qualified, for example in respect of

language skills, and should therefore be appropriately paid by the Contracting States setting up a Regional Division.

Art. 13(2)(b) Draft Statute provides that the Registrar shall receive the fees payable to the Court. To avoid any discrepancies vis-à-vis Art. 21a Draft Agreement, it is now made clear that the sub-registries collect the fees, which themselves are under the final authority of the Registrar.

As the Regional Division collects the court fees for the European Patent Court, an appropriate portion ($z = 50\%$) of this European Patent Judiciary income should be used to finance the European Patent Judiciary's central institutions and in particular the judges' salaries.

Art. 39(2) EPC 2000

Art. 41(1) EPC

(2) The European Patent Judiciary shall receive a proportion of the court fees collected by the sub-registries of any Regional Division; the proportion, to be fixed by the Administrative Committee, shall not be less than z per cent. Each Contracting State shall communicate to the European Patent Judiciary such information as the Administrative Committee considers necessary to determine the amount of these payments.

Article 22 Advances

(1) Where appropriate, the Contracting States shall grant advances to the European Patent Judiciary on their contributions under Article 21, paragraph 2, the amount to be fixed by the Administrative Committee.

(2) Such advances shall be proportionate to the amounts due from the Contracting State for the accounting period in question.

Art. 42 EPC

Article 23 Budget

(1) The budget of the European Patent Judiciary shall be balanced. It shall be drawn up in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles laid down in the Financial Regulations. If necessary, there may be amending or supplementary budgets.

(2) The budget shall be drawn up in the unit of account fixed in the Financial Regulations.

Article 24 Authorisation for expenditure

Art. 43 EPC

(1) The expenditure entered in the budget shall be authorised for the duration of one accounting period unless the Financial Regulations provide otherwise.

(2) In accordance with the Financial Regulations, any appropriations, other than those relating to staff costs, which are unexpended at the end of the accounting period may be carried forward, but not beyond the end of the following accounting period.

(3) Appropriations shall be set out under different headings according to type and purpose of the expenditure, and subdivided, as far as necessary, in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

Article 25 Appropriations for unforeseeable expenditure

Art. 44 EPC

(1) The budget of the European Patent Judiciary may contain appropriations for unforeseeable expenditure.

(2) The employment of these appropriations by the European Patent Judiciary shall be subject to the prior approval of the Administrative Committee.

Article 26 Accounting period

Art. 45 EPC

The accounting period shall commence on 1 January and end on 31 December.

Article 27 Preparation and adoption of the budget

Art. 46 EPC

(1) The Executive Committee shall submit the draft budget of the European Patent Judiciary to the Administrative Committee no later than the date prescribed in the Financial Regulations.

(2) The budget and any amending or supplementary budget shall be adopted by the Administrative Committee.

Article 28 Provisional budget

Art. 47 EPC

(1) If, at the beginning of the accounting period, the budget has not been adopted by the Administrative Committee, expenditures may be effected on a monthly basis per heading or other division of the budget, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, up to one-twelfth of the budget appropriations for the preceding accounting period, provided that the appropriations thus made available to the Executive Committee do not exceed one-twelfth of those provided for in the draft budget.

(2) The Administrative Committee may, subject to the observance of the other provisions laid down in paragraph 1, authorise expenditure in excess of one-twelfth of the appropriations.

(3) The Contracting States shall pay each month, on a provisional basis and in accordance with the amounts referred to in Article 21, any financial contributions needed to ensure the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 29 Budget implementation

Art. 48 EPC

(1) The Executive Committee shall implement the budget and any amending or supplementary budget on its own responsibility and within the limits of the allocated appropriations.

(2) Within the budget, the Executive Committee may, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, transfer funds between the various headings or sub-headings.

Article 30 Auditing of accounts

Art. 49 EPC; drafted as proposed in CA/F 9/01

(1) The annual financial statements of the European Patent Judiciary shall be examined by independent auditors. The auditors shall be appointed and if necessary dismissed by the Administrative Committee.

(2) The audit, which shall be based on professional auditing standards and shall take place, if necessary, in situ, shall ascertain that the budget has been implemented in a lawful and proper manner and that the financial administration of the European Patent Judiciary has been conducted in accordance with the principles of economy and sound financial management. The auditors shall draw up a report after the end of each accounting period containing a signed audit opinion.

(3) The Executive Committee shall submit to the Administrative Committee the annual financial statements of the European Patent Judiciary and the annual budget implementation statement for the preceding accounting period, together with the auditors' report.

(4) The Administrative Committee shall approve the annual accounts together with the auditors' report and shall discharge the Executive Committee in respect of the implementation of the budget.

Article 31 Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations shall lay down in particular:

(a) arrangements relating to the establishment and implementation of the budget and for the rendering and auditing of accounts

(b) the method and procedure whereby the payments and contributions provided for in Article 21, paragraph 2, and the advances provided for in Article 22 are to be made available to the European Patent Judiciary by the Contracting States

(c) the rules concerning the responsibilities of authorising and accounting officers and the arrangements for their supervision

(d) the composition of and the duties to be assigned to a Budget and Finance Committee if the Administrative Committee sets one up

(e) the generally accepted accounting principles on which the budget and the annual financial statements are to be based.

**PART III SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW,
JURISDICTION AND EFFECT OF
DECISIONS**

CHAPTER I SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW

**Article 32 Substantive patent law to be
applied by the European Patent
Court**

For the purposes of litigation under this Agreement,
European patents shall be subject to:

- (a) the provisions of this chapter,
- (b) those provisions of the European Patent Convention which apply to every European patent and which are consequently deemed to be provisions of this Agreement, and
- (c) those provisions of national law which have been enacted by the Contracting States to implement Article 65, Article 67, paragraphs 2 and 3, and Article 70, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the European Patent Convention.

Article 33 Infringing acts

A European patent shall confer on its proprietor the right to prevent any third party not having his consent:

- (a) from making, offering, putting on the market or using a product which is the subject-matter of the patent, or importing or stocking the product for these purposes

See Art. 25 CPC 1989

(b) from using a process which is the subject-matter of the patent or, when the third party knows, or it is obvious in the circumstances, that the use of the process is prohibited without the consent of the proprietor of the patent, from offering the process for use

(c) from offering, putting on the market, using, importing or stocking for these purposes a product obtained directly by a process which is the subject-matter of the patent.

See Art. 26 CPC 1989

Article 34 Indirect infringement

(1) A European patent shall also confer on its proprietor the right to prevent any third party not having his consent from supplying or offering to supply any person, other than a party entitled to exploit the patented invention, with means, relating to an essential element of that invention, for putting it into effect therein, when the third party knows, or it is obvious in the circumstances, that these means are suitable and intended for putting that invention into effect.

(2) Paragraph 1 shall not apply when the means are staple commercial products, except where the third party induces the person supplied to commit acts prohibited by Article 33.

(3) Persons performing the acts referred to in Article 35(a) to (c) shall not be considered to be parties entitled to exploit the invention within the meaning of paragraph 1.

See Art. 27 CPC 1989

NL delegation wonders whether, with a view to Art. 10.6 Directive 2004/27/EC, the list of non-infringing activities in Art. 35 should be supplemented by a provision laying down that conducting studies and trials relating to a generic of a reference medicinal product shall not be regarded as contrary to patent rights when the results of such studies and trials are used to obtain a marketing authorisation for that generic.

Article 35 Limitations to the effects of the European patent

The rights conferred by a European patent shall not extend to:

- (a) acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes
- (b) acts done for experimental purposes relating to the subject-matter of the patented invention
- (c) the extemporaneous preparation for individual cases in a pharmacy of a medicine in accordance with a medical prescription or acts concerning the medicine so prepared
- (d) the use on board vessels of the countries of the Union of Paris for the Protection of Industrial Property, other than the Contracting States, of the patented invention, in the body of the vessel, in the machinery, tackle, gear and other accessories, when such vessels temporarily or accidentally enter the waters of the Contracting States, provided that the invention is used there exclusively for the needs of the vessel
- (e) the use of the patented invention in the construction or operation of aircraft or land vehicles of the countries of the Union of Paris for the Protection of Industrial Property, other than the Contracting States, or of accessories of such aircraft or land vehicles, when these temporarily or accidentally enter the territory of the Contracting States

(f) the acts specified in Article 27 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 7 December 1944, where these acts concern the aircraft of a State, other than a Contracting State, benefiting from that Article.

Article 36 Reversal of burden of proof

See Art. 35 CPC 1989 and Art. 34 TRIPs

(1) If the subject-matter of a European patent is a process for obtaining a new product, the same product when produced by any other person shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be deemed to have been obtained by the patented process.

(2) The same shall apply if there is a substantial likelihood that an identical product was made by a patented process for obtaining a product and the proprietor of the patent has been unable despite reasonable efforts to determine the process actually used.

(3) In the adduction of proof to the contrary, the legitimate interests of the defendant in protecting his manufacturing and business secrets shall be taken into account.

Article 37 Prior use

See Art. 37 CPC 1989

Any person who, if a national patent had been granted in respect of an invention, would have had, in a Contracting State, a right based on prior use of that invention or a right of personal possession of that invention, shall enjoy, in that State, the same rights in respect of a European patent for the same invention.

See Art. 13 ProtLit 1989

To the best of delegations' knowledge the provisions of Arts. 38 - 40 as proposed in this draft are compatible with Community Law (Reg. 44/2001) as well as with the Brussels and Lugano Conventions. The sub-group is aware, though, that this question is still under scrutiny by the legal services of the Commission and of several member states.

CHAPTER II JURISDICTION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT AND EFFECT OF DECISIONS

Article 38 Application of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions

(1) Those Contracting States which are also party to the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, signed in Brussels on 27 September 1968, as amended by the Conventions on the Accession to that Convention of the States acceding to the European Communities, and to the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, signed in Lugano on 16 September 1988, hereinafter referred to respectively as "the Brussels Convention" and "the Lugano Convention", hereby designate the European Patent Court as their national court within the meaning of those conventions.

(2) For the purposes of applying the Brussels and Lugano Conventions to proceedings governed by this Agreement, the provisions of Title II of those Conventions, applicable to persons domiciled in a Contracting State, shall also apply to persons who do not have a domicile in any Contracting State but have an establishment therein.

(3) In the case of conflict between the provisions of the Brussels or Lugano Conventions and the provisions of this Agreement, the former shall prevail.

For the discussion on Art. 39
and 40 see WPL/8/02

see Art. 68(1) Reg. 44/2001

See Art. 15 ProtLit 1989

Article 39 **Application of
Regulation 44/2001**

(1) Those Contracting States which are also Member States of the European Community and bound by Council Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, hereinafter referred to as "Regulation 44/2001", hereby designate the European Patent Court as their national court within the meaning of that Regulation.

(2) Article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 40 **Preliminary rulings of the Court
of Justice of the European
Communities**

(1) Those Contracting States which are also Member States of the European Community hereby designate the European Patent Court as their national court for the purposes of Article 234 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

(2) The preliminary rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Communities shall be binding on the European Patent Court in so far as the latter's decisions take effect in one or more of the Contracting States which are also Member States of the European Community.

Article 41 **Jurisdiction in respect of
infringement and validity**

(1) The Court of First Instance shall have civil jurisdiction in respect of

(a) any action for actual or threatened infringement or for a declaration of non-infringement of a European patent effective in one or more of the Contracting States

Art. 35 CPC 1989; Art. 34 TRIPs

(b) any action or counterclaim for revocation of a European patent effective in one or more of the Contracting States, and

(c) any action for damages or compensation in respect of the protection conferred by a published European patent application in accordance with Article 67 of the European Patent Convention, and

(d) any other action concerning a European patent if and to the extent the parties have so agreed.

(2) Any action under paragraph 1 shall be brought before the Central or competent Regional Division in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, which shall take account of the provisions of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions and of Regulation 44/2001. However, any direct action for revocation shall be brought before the Central Division.

(3) The jurisdiction of the Court of First Instance under paragraph 1 shall be exclusive as regards any action for revocation of a European patent with effect for one or more of the Contracting States and for any actions against a defendant domiciled in one of the Contracting States.

(4) The Court of First Instance shall treat the European patent as valid unless its validity is contested by the defendant.

(5) The Court of First Instance shall inform the national patent office of any Contracting State concerned, and the European Patent Office, of the date on which an action or counterclaim for revocation of a European patent was filed.

See Art. 15(2) ProtLit 1989

The matter of how the defendant may present his defence is left to the RoP

See Art. 16 ProtLit 1989

See Art. 19 ProtLit. 1989 and
Arts. 101 and 138 EPC

Article 42 Decisions on validity

- (1) Where the validity of a European patent has been contested, the European Patent Court shall
 - (a) revoke the patent if at least one ground for revocation under Article 138, paragraph 1, of the European Patent Convention prejudices its maintenance; otherwise it shall dismiss the action or counterclaim for revocation
 - (b) limit the patent by a corresponding amendment of the claims and revoke the patent in part if the grounds for revocation under Article 138, paragraph 1, of the European Patent Convention affect the patent only in part.
- (2) Where the European Patent Court, in a final decision, has revoked a European patent for one or more of the Contracting States, it shall send a copy of the decision to the national patent office of any Contracting State concerned and to the European Patent Office.
- (3) Where the European Patent Court, in a final decision, has maintained a European patent as amended, paragraph 2 above and Article 65 of the European Patent Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

CH, DK, FI and UK would prefer a solution under which decisions revoking a European patent or maintaining it as amended shall take effect in all Contracting States unless the proprietor of the patent satisfies the European Patent Court that the grounds for revocation are not applicable in one or more of those States, in which case the decision shall take effect only in the States where these grounds are applicable.

See Art. 33(1) CPC 1989 and Art. 68 EPC

"Contested" in this context means a defence of invalidity raised by the defendant (assumed infringer) and not a counterclaim for revocation.

See Art. 33(2) CPC 1989

Article 43 Effect of decisions

(1) Decisions of the European Patent Court shall be regarded, in any Contracting State, as decisions of a national court of that State.

(2) If revocation of the European patent is not requested for all the Contracting States where it is effective, the proprietor of the patent may request that the effect of the decision be extended to all these States.

(3) The European patent shall be deemed not to have had, from the outset, the effects specified in Articles 33 and 34 to the extent that the patent has been revoked.

(4) If the validity of a European patent has been contested in proceedings initiated by the holder of an exclusive licence under this patent in which the proprietor of the patent did not take part, the decision of the European Patent Court shall only take effect between the parties to those proceedings.

(5) Subject to the national law relating either to claims for damages caused by negligence or lack of good faith on the part of the proprietor of the patent, or to unjust enrichment, the retroactive effect of the revocation of a European patent under paragraph 3 shall not affect any final decision on infringement enforced prior to the revocation of the patent.

See Art. 21 ProtLit 1989 and
Art. 112a EPC

**Article 44 Jurisdiction of the Court of
Appeal**

The Court of Appeal shall have exclusive jurisdiction to decide on appeals against decisions of the Court of First Instance and on petitions for review.

**CHAPTER III JURISDICTION OF NATIONAL
COURTS**

**Article 45 Provisional and protective
measures**

(1) Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the European Patent Court, the national courts of any Contracting State shall retain jurisdiction to order such provisional or protective measures as are provided for by their national law.

(2) The party who has filed a request for such an order with a national court shall notify the Registry of this fact within 31 calendar days of filing the request if proceedings on the merits are pending before the European Patent Court. If the Registry is not notified in due time, the order by the national court shall be revoked or otherwise cease to have effect, upon request of the party against whom the order was directed, from the day after this time limit expires, without prejudice to the right of that party to claim damages arising out of that order or its execution.

(3) If no proceedings on the merits are pending before the European Patent Court and if such proceedings are not brought before that Court within 31 calendar days of the date of the order by the national court, or such other period as the national court specifies, the order by the national court shall cease to have effect from the day after this time limit expires, without prejudice to the right of the party against whom the order was directed to claim damages arising out of that order or its execution.

Article 46 **Provisional seizure**

(1) Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the European Patent Court, the national courts of any Contracting State shall retain jurisdiction in respect of the provisional seizure of goods as security for any damages, compensation, costs or any other payment resulting from proceedings before the European Patent Court.

(2) Article 45, paragraphs 2 and 3, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

**PART IV PROCEDURE BEFORE THE
EUROPEAN PATENT COURT**

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 48 Case management

The European Patent Court shall actively manage the cases before it in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 49 Public proceedings

Proceedings before the European Patent Court shall be public unless and in so far as the Court decides otherwise for reasons of public order or any other compelling reason, particularly in order to protect the trade secrets of one of the parties or any other interested person.

Article 50 Right to be heard

Decisions on the merits of the European Patent Court may only be based on grounds or evidence on which the parties have had an opportunity to present their comments.

Article 51 Parties

(1) The right of a natural or legal person, or any body equivalent to a legal person, to be party to the proceedings shall be determined by the applicable national law.

See Art. 116(4) EPC

Art. 7.5 Directive 2004/48/EC reads: "Member States may take measures to protect witnesses' identity". See also suggestions by SK (WPL/SUB 7/05).

The sub-group proposes not to take up this option in the draft Agreement.

See Art. 113(1) EPC and Art. 41(3) TRIPs

Art. 4 Directive 2004/48/EC reads:

"Member States shall recognise as persons entitled to seek application of the measures, procedures and remedies referred to in this chapter:

(a) the holders of intellectual property rights, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable law;

(b) all other persons authorised to use those rights, in particular licensees, in so far as permitted by and in accordance with the provisions of the applicable law;"

Doubts were expressed during the 8th meeting of the Sub-group whether it would be appropriate to take up the option of Art. 4(b) Directive 2004/48/EC that also a non-exclusive licensee may initiate proceedings before a court. However, in order to maintain alternatives for further consideration, it was left open whether or not Art. 51(2), second sentence, should remain in the draft Agreement.

(2) The holder of an exclusive licence under a European patent may initiate litigation before the European Patent Court in the same way as the proprietor of the patent unless the licensing agreement provides otherwise. The holders of other licences may initiate litigation before the Court in so far as permitted by the applicable national law.

(3) The Rules of Procedure shall govern

(a) the participation in the proceedings of a plurality of parties and of third parties

(b) changes in the legal identity of parties

(c) the removal of parties from the proceedings, or their inclusion in them, and

(d) cases in which parties go bankrupt or cease to exist.

See Art. 116 EPC

Article 51a Oral proceedings

Oral proceedings shall take place either at the instance of the European Patent Court if it considers this to be expedient or at the request of any party to the proceedings, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 52 Basis for decisions

(1) The European Patent Court shall decide in accordance with the requests submitted by the parties. The Court shall not award more than is requested.

(2) Apart from well-known facts, decisions on the merits may only be based on the grounds, facts and evidence put forward by the parties to the proceedings.

(3) The European Patent Court shall evaluate evidence freely and independently.

Article 53 Evidence

(1) In proceedings before the European Patent Court, the means of giving or obtaining evidence shall include the following:

- (a) hearing the parties
- (b) requests for information
- (c) production of documents
- (d) hearing witnesses
- (e) opinions by experts

See Art. 117 EPC

- (f) inspection
 - (g) comparative tests or experiments
 - (h) sworn statements in writing (affidavits).
- (2) The Rules of Procedure shall govern the procedure for taking such evidence.
- (3) The onus of proof of any facts shall be on the party relying on such facts, unless the European Patent Court decides otherwise.
- (4) The European Patent Court shall be regarded as a competent national court within the meaning of Article 25 of the European Patent Convention.

**Article 54 Production of evidence by other
or third parties**

- (1) Where a party has sufficiently substantiated a claim and specified evidence relevant to such claim which lies in the control of another party, the European Patent Court may order the other party to produce such evidence.

See Art. 43 TRIPS

Art. 6.1 Directive 2004/48/EC reads: "Member States shall ensure that, on application by a party which has presented reasonably available evidence sufficient to support its claims, and has, in substantiating those claims, specified evidence which lies in the control of the opposing party, the competent judicial authorities may order that such evidence be presented by the opposing party, subject to the protection of confidential information."

The terms "evidence which lies in the control of the opposing party" seem to allow a broader variety of evidence to be presented than "evidence in the possession of another party". It is therefore proposed to bring Art. 54 draft Agreement into line with Directive 2004/48/EC.

Art. 6 Directive 2004/48/EC requires that confidential information be protected during all proceedings where evidence is collected and secured. In the draft Agreement, the protection of confidential information is only dealt with in the Chapter "Provisional and protective measures" (Art. 75). It is proposed that Art. 75 draft Agreement be included amongst the general provisions governing the procedure before the European Patent Court (new Art. 54a).

To be in line with the terminology used in the Draft Agreement, the term "person" has been replaced by the term "party".

(2) Where a party has sufficiently substantiated a claim and specified evidence relevant to such claim which is likely to lie in the control of a third party due to its relationship to another party, the European Patent Court may order that third party to produce such evidence. The Court shall take due account of the interests of that third party and shall, before making such order, give that party an opportunity to present its interests unless this is incompatible with an effective enforcement of such order.

Article 54a Protection of confidential information

To safeguard a party's or a third party's trade secrets or other confidential information, or to prevent an abuse of evidence, the European Patent Court may order that the use of evidence in proceedings before it be restricted or prohibited or that access to such evidence be restricted to certain persons.

See Art. 21 COPAC Statute

Article 55 Witnesses

- (1) In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the European Patent Court may order that a fine be paid by a witness who,
 - (a) duly summoned and in the absence of force majeure or any other good cause refuses to appear or does not appear before the Court, or
 - (b) refuses to answer questions asked by the Court without having a right to do so.
- (2) An absent witness shall be given the opportunity to be heard before such order is made.
- (3) The fine may not exceed the amount determined in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 56 Statements by parties, witnesses and experts

Any statement made by a party, witness or expert in proceedings before the European Patent Court shall be treated in any Contracting State as if it had been made before a competent national court or authority.

Article 57 Court fees

- (1) Parties to proceedings before the European Patent Court shall pay court fees in accordance with the provisions laid down by the Administrative Committee.
- (2) Court fees shall be paid in advance. Any party which has not paid a prescribed court fee may be excluded from further participation in the proceedings.

Article 58 Costs

(1) In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the unsuccessful party shall bear the cost of litigation before the European Patent Court incurred by the other party and the Court.

(2) Where a party succeeds only in part, or where the circumstances are exceptional, the European Patent Court may order that costs be apportioned equitably or that the parties bear their own costs.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph 2, the European Patent Court may order a party to bear any costs it has unnecessarily caused the Court or another party.

Article 59 Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure shall lay down the details of proceedings before the European Patent Court

CHAPTER II POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT COURT

Article 60 General

The European Patent Court may impose such measures, securities, sanctions and fines as are laid down in this Agreement and may make its orders subject to other conditions, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 61 Astreinte

(1) The European Patent Court may order any non-compliance with an order of the Court to be sanctioned by an astreinte, payable to the party mentioned in the order, without prejudice to that party's right to claim damages.

Any non-compliance with an order of the Court whether it concerns a party or another person such as a counsel, may be sanctioned by an astreinte

- (2) An astreinte shall not be payable
 - (a) before the order is served on the party concerned in accordance with the law governing service
 - (b) while the party concerned is bankrupt or after it ceases to exist
- (3) If the party concerned is permanently or temporarily, totally or partially, unable to comply with the order of the European Patent Court, the Court may, at the party's request and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, direct that the astreinte
 - (a) be cancelled,
 - (b) be temporarily suspended, or
 - (c) be reduced.
- (4) Any cancellation, suspension or reduction shall not apply as long as the party concerned is able to comply with the order.
- (5) An astreinte shall not be deducted from any damages awarded.

Article 62 Injunction

The European Patent Court may order a party infringing or threatening to infringe a European patent to cease and desist from any act infringing the patent under Articles 33 or 34.

See Art. 44 TRIPs

DE, FR, MC and NL delegations and one expert supported the idea of considering whether the right to request an injunction should expire after a certain time period; cf. Art. 67 on the limitation of the right to claim damages.

See Art. 46 TRIPs

Article 63 Forfeiture

(1) The European Patent Court may order that goods found to be infringing be destroyed or otherwise disposed of, without compensation of any sort, outside the commercial channels and in such a manner as to prevent any harm to the injured party.

(2) The European Patent Court may also order that materials and devices used mainly to manufacture infringing goods or carry out an infringing process be destroyed or otherwise disposed of, without compensation of any sort, outside the commercial channels and in such a manner as to prevent any harm to the injured party.

(3) Due account shall be taken of the need for proportionality between the seriousness of the infringing act and the remedies ordered, the willingness of the party concerned to convert the materials into a non-infringing state, and the interests of third parties.

Article 64 Damages

See Art. 45(1) TRIPs

(1) The European Patent Court may order the party who knowingly, or with reasonable grounds to know, infringes the European patent, to pay the injured party damages adequate to compensate for the injury suffered.

(2) The European Patent Court shall have the same power in respect of a party who caused or tolerated such infringement, on the basis of his relationship with the party infringing the European patent, while it was in his power to stop it.

See Art. 45 TRIPs

(3) Regarding the assessment and awarding of damages, the injured party shall, as far as possible, be restored to the position he would have been in if no infringement had taken place, and the party infringing the European patent shall not benefit from the infringement.

(4) Damages shall not be punitive.

Article 65 Kinds of damages

(1) Damages shall compensate for any loss suffered by the injured party because of any infringing act. They shall include, without necessarily being confined to,

(a) the profits the injured party would have made if no such act had taken place, or

(b) any profits actually made or likely to have been made by the party infringing the European patent.

(2) The European Patent Court may order the party infringing the European patent to lay open his books to the injured party or to such expert as the Court may designate.

(3) If it is impossible or disproportionately difficult or costly to establish the real extent of any damages under paragraph 1, the European Patent Court may freely determine the amount of damages to be awarded, which shall in any event exceed the amount of the customary licence fee.

(4) In awarding damages, the European Patent Court may also order the party infringing the European patent to perform, or refrain from, certain acts.

See Art. 48 TRIPs

Article 66 Indemnification of a party

The European Patent Court may order a party, at whose request measures ordered by the Court were enforced, to provide the other party wrongfully enjoined or restrained with adequate compensation for the injury suffered as a result of such enforcement, and to pay his expenses. Article 65 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 67 Limitation of right to claim damages

(1) The right to claim damages shall expire five years from the date on which the injured person became, or had reasonable grounds to become, aware of the infringing act.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the right to claim damages shall expire five years after proceedings for damages were terminated without a decision or a settlement.

(3) The parties may agree in writing to another period of limitation.

See Art. 47 TRIPs,
Art. 8.1 Directive 2004/48/EC

Article 68 Right of information

(1) The European Patent Court may, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, order a party infringing the European patent to inform the injured party of

(a) the origin and distribution channels of the infringing goods or processes and

(b) the identity of any third person involved in the production or distribution of infringing goods or in the use of an infringing process.

(2) The European Patent Court may, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, also order any other person who

(a) was found in the possession of infringing goods or in the use of an infringing process on a commercial scale, or

(b) was found to be providing, on a commercial scale, services used in infringing activities, or

(c) who was indicated by the person referred to in a) or b) as being involved in the production, manufacture or distribution of the goods or processes or in the provision of the services,

to provide the injured party with the information referred to in paragraph 1(a) and (b).

This provision ensures that the Court has the power to decide that the decision replaces a necessary declaration a party was ordered to make, or an act a party was ordered to perform, e.g. handing out certain infringing goods.

Art. 50 TRIPs
See also WPL/8/02 as regards review of national decisions by the European Patent Court.

Art. 9.4, first sentence,
Directive 2004/48/EC

Article 69 **Power to replace an act of a party by a decision of the European Patent Court**

The European Patent Court may order that its decision is substituted for any declaration or other act by a party in order to comply with certain legal requirements.

CHAPTER III **PROVISIONAL AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Article 70 **General**

(1) The European Patent Court may order such provisional and protective measures as are laid down in this Agreement and may make its orders subject to other conditions, in particular securities, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

(2) The European Patent Court shall take due account of the likely outcome of the proceedings as to the merits and the proportionality of the measure requested.

(3) Any such measure may be ordered even *inaudita altera parte*, in particular in case of exceptional urgency or if the measure could not otherwise be implemented effectively.

Art. 7.1 Directive 2004/48/EC reads:

"Where measures to preserve evidence are adopted without the other party having been heard, the parties affected shall be given notice, without delay after the execution of the measures at the latest. A review, including a right to be heard, shall take place upon request of the parties affected with a view to deciding, within a reasonable period after the notification of the measures, whether the measures shall be modified, revoked or confirmed."

It is proposed to include a similar provision in the draft Agreement.

Art. 7.3 Directive 2004/48/EC reads:

"Member States shall ensure that the measures to preserve evidence are revoked or otherwise cease to have effect, upon request of the defendant, without prejudice to the damages which may be claimed, if the applicant does

(4) Where measures are ordered *inaudita altera parte*, the party affected shall be informed, without delay after the execution of the measures at the latest. A review shall take place upon request of the party affected with a view to deciding, within a reasonable period after the notification of the measures, whether the measures shall be modified, revoked or confirmed.

(5) Provisional or protective measures shall be revoked or otherwise cease to have effect, upon request of the affected party, if proceedings as to the merits are not instituted before the European Patent Court within a reasonable period to be determined by the Court or, in the absence of such determination, within a period not exceeding 31 calendar days.

not institute, within a reasonable period, proceedings leading to a decision on the merits of the case before the competent judicial authority, the period to be determined by the judicial authority ordering the measures where the law of a Member State so permits or, in the absence of such determination, within a period not exceeding 20 working days or 31 calendar days, whichever is the longer." It is proposed to align Art. 70(5) draft Agreement on Art. 7.3 Directive 2004/48/EC and on Art. 50(6) TRIPs Agreement.

(6) Article 66 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 71 Preliminary injunctions

Where there is an immediate need to protect and safeguard a party's interests, the European Patent Court may, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, issue a preliminary injunction under Article 62.

This measure concerns what is known as "saisie contrefaçon".

Article 72 Orders for inspection of property

(1) The European Patent Court may order the inspection of premises and the preservation of evidence that is or may be relevant in pending or future proceedings before it.

(2) The order may instruct any person to permit someone specified in the order, or to ensure that someone so described, hereinafter referred to as "the executing person", is permitted, to enter commercial premises in any Contracting State

(3) In accordance with the terms of the order, the executing person may in respect of any goods, materials or devices described in the order

(a) inspect the premises

(b) search for such articles

(c) make or obtain a copy, photograph, sample or other record of such articles, and

(d) request any information or article and retain for safe keeping anything described in the order.

Article 73 Freezing orders

The European Patent Court may order a party to refrain

(a) from removing from its jurisdiction any assets located there, or

(b) from dealing in any assets, whether located within its jurisdiction or not.

See Art. 46 TRIPs

Article 74 Sequestration

(1) The European Patent Court may order the sequestration of allegedly infringing goods or of materials or devices used mainly to manufacture allegedly infringing goods or carry out an allegedly infringing process, to prevent them from entering commercial channels.

(2) The order may instruct any person to permit someone specified in the order, or to ensure that someone so described, hereinafter referred to as "the executing person", is permitted, to enter commercial premises in any Contracting State.

(3) In accordance with the terms of the order, the executing person may in respect of any goods, materials or devices described in the order:

(a) inspect the premises

(b) search for and remove such articles.

(4) The executing person shall convey and hand over the articles thus removed to the person mentioned in the order, who shall act as sequestrator.

(5) Sequestration may be ordered for the duration of the proceedings as to the merits.

See the proposal for a new Art. 54a Draft Agreement.

Article 75 Other protective orders

deleted.

PART V PROCEDURAL REMEDIES

CHAPTER I APPEAL

Article 76 Appeal

See Art. 106 EPC

(1) In accordance with this Agreement and the Rules of Procedure, an appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal from decisions of the Court of First Instance.

(2) An immediate appeal shall lie from

(a) any decision terminating proceedings as regards one of the parties

(b) any decision in which the Court of First Instance has assumed jurisdiction which was unsuccessfully contested

(c) any decision in which a Regional Division has assumed its competence which was unsuccessfully contested, and

(d) any decision ordering provisional or protective measures.

(3) Any other decision shall only be appealable together with the decision terminating proceedings, unless the decision appealed against or the Court of Appeal grants leave to appeal.

(4) Any decision not appealed against earlier shall be appealable together with the decision terminating proceedings.

See Art. 107 EPC

See Art. 108 EPC

Such an exceptional case may occur e.g. when facts or evidence are not available at the beginning of the proceedings or when it cannot reasonably be required from the party concerned to provide them.

Article 77 Persons entitled to appeal

Any party to proceedings adversely affected by a decision may appeal.

Article 78 Time limit and form

- (1) Notice of appeal setting out the grounds shall be filed within three months of notification of the decision.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph 1, notice of appeal may still be filed by way of cross-appeal after an appeal has been filed by another party.
- (3) Notice of appeal or cross-appeal shall be filed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 79 Grounds for appeal

An appeal may only be based on the grounds

- (a) that the facts alleged by the parties were not correctly established, or
- (b) that, given the established facts, the law was not correctly applied.

Article 80 New facts or evidence

In exceptional cases, new facts or evidence may be taken into consideration by the Court of Appeal in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

See Art. 106(1) EPC

Article 81 Effect

(1) An appeal shall have suspensive effect unless the Court of First Instance or the Court of Appeal decides otherwise.

(2) Where a decision not terminating the proceedings is appealed against, the proceedings shall be stayed until the Court of Appeal has taken a decision unless the Court of First Instance or the Court of Appeal decides otherwise.

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF DECISIONS

Article 82 Petition for review

See Art. 112a(1) EPC

(1) Any party to proceedings before the European Patent Court which is adversely affected by a decision against which an appeal is not or no longer possible may file a petition for review of that decision by the Court of Appeal.

(2) The petition for review may only be filed on the grounds that

(a) a criminal act may have had an impact on the decision, or,

(b) if it concerns a decision of the Court of Appeal, a fundamental procedural defect has occurred in the proceedings.

(3) A petition for review may only be based on paragraph 2(a) if a competent court or authority has finally established that a criminal act occurred; a conviction is not necessary.

(4) The petition for review shall be filed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

See Art. 112a(4) EPC

(5) If based on paragraph 2(b), the petition shall be filed within two months of notification of the decision. If based on paragraph 2(a), the petition shall be filed within two months of the date of the decision establishing the criminal act and in any event no later than five years from notification of the decision of the European Patent Court.

See Art. 112a(3) EPC

(6) The petition for review shall not have suspensive effect unless the Court of Appeal decides otherwise.

Article 83 Procedure and decision on review

See Art. 112a(5) EPC

(1) The Court of Appeal shall examine the petition for review in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

(2) If the petition for review is admissible and allowable, the Court of Appeal shall set aside the decision under review in whole or in part and shall re-open the proceedings for a new trial and decision.

(3) If the decision set aside was taken by the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal shall remit the case to that Court unless the parties and the Court of Appeal agree that the case should be decided by the Court of Appeal.

See Art. 112a(6) EPC

(4) Any person who, in a Contracting State, has in good faith used or made effective and serious preparations for using an invention which is the subject of a published European patent application or a European patent in the period between the decision under review and the publication of the decision of the Court of Appeal on the petition, may without payment continue such use in the course of his business or for the needs thereof.

PART Va

**FACULTATIVE ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Article 83a

**Court of Appeal functioning as
Facultative Advisory Council**

The functions of the Facultative Advisory Council referred to in Article 4 shall be performed by the Court of Appeal.

Article 83b

**Opinions delivered by the
Facultative Advisory Council**

At the request of a national court or quasi-judicial authority of a Contracting State trying an infringement or revocation action, the Facultative Advisory Council shall deliver an opinion on any point of law referred to it concerning the provisions mentioned in Article 32 or national patent law harmonised with them. The opinion shall not be binding on the referring court or quasi-judicial authority.

Article 83c

**Procedure regarding the
delivery of opinions**

(1) The following provisions shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the procedure before the Facultative Advisory Council:

- Articles 5, 32 to 37 and

NL reservation: compatibility of judicial and advisory function of Court of Appeal

Possibility of requesting opinions restricted to courts or quasi-judicial authorities of EPLA Contracting States.

Art. 149a(1)(b) EPC 2000; no competence to deliver opinions on issues of Community law

The principles enshrined in a number of provisions designed for the judicial function of the European Patent Court must also apply to the delivery of opinions by the FAC, namely

provisions on judicial independence, substantive patent law

provisions on impartiality, composition of the Court of Appeal panel and selection of competent judges according to predetermined criteria ("gesetzlicher Richter"), representation before the FAC, possible membership of both the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal

See Art. 14(1) EPC

The right to be heard should primarily be observed in the proceedings before the national court referring the point of law. However, as in the case of preliminary rulings of the European Court Justice, parties could be given a single opportunity to present comments in writing; it would not seem appropriate, though, to hold oral proceedings (which are possible before the ECJ) before the FAC.

- Articles 10, 27, 34 to 38 and 40 of the Statute.

(2) The official languages of the Facultative Advisory Council shall be English, French and German.

(3) The language of proceedings shall be that official language of the Facultative Advisory Council in which the request under Article 83b is submitted to it. A Contracting State may prescribe the official language or languages of the Facultative Advisory Council in which its courts or quasi-judicial authorities may submit a request under Article 83b.

(4) The parties to a case which gives rise to a referral under Article 83b may present in writing their arguments and submissions relating to the point of law in question within a period to be specified by the Facultative Advisory Council and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Facultative Advisory Council.

Inserted at the suggestion of the French delegation.

Under Art. 18(3) a three-quarters majority is necessary.

Contracting States participating only under Part Va (FAC) will be bound by the special provisions concerning the FAC and by most institutional, financial, transitional and final provisions except those which relate specifically to judicial aspects of the European Patent Judiciary. Part Va contains provisions which take precedence over the general provisions, in particular with regard to financing the FAC and voting rights.

(5) The reasoned opinion shall be given in writing, in the language of the proceedings, by a majority of the panel of the Facultative Advisory Council.

(6) Proceedings under this Part shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Facultative Advisory Council, to be adopted by the Administrative Committee. Article 18, paragraph 3 shall apply.

Article 83d Reservations

(1) Any Contracting State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, declare that it is bound by this Agreement only as far as it relates to the Facultative Advisory Council.

(2) Contracting States which have made a declaration under paragraph 1 shall be bound by this Part of the Agreement and, subject to the provisions of this Part, which take precedence, by Articles 1, 3, 4, 6, Article 7, paragraph 1, Articles 8, 9, 11, Article 12, paragraph 1, Articles 13 to 21, Articles 22 to 31, Article 84, and Articles 87 to 99.

(3) Any declaration made under paragraph 1 may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Government of ***. The withdrawal shall take effect on the first day of the third month after the date of receipt of such a notification.

UK, NL: until further clarity is reached, general reservations as to the provisions governing financial matters

Financing by the EPO may raise problems as not all EPO member states will be party to the EPLA.

Consideration should be given to the possibility of covering at least some of the FAC's costs by fees to be charged to the parties.

If the income under (a) and (b) did not cover the costs of the FAC's work, the Contracting States would have to pay the difference.

Article 83e Financing

(1) The expenses incurred by the European Patent Judiciary with regard to the Facultative Advisory Council shall be covered by

(a) contributions of the European Patent Organisation if its Administrative Council so decides under Article 149a, paragraph 2(b), in conjunction with Article 35, paragraph 2, of the European Patent Convention;

(b) fees for delivering an opinion if such a fee is provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Facultative Advisory Council; or

(c) contributions of the Contracting States the amount of which shall be determined by the Administrative Committee; Article 21, paragraphs 3 and 4, shall apply with the proviso that the relevant ratio under Article 21, paragraph 3(b), shall be the ratio of the number of opinions requested by courts or quasi-judicial authorities of the Contracting State to the number of all opinions requested from the Facultative Advisory Council.

(2) Income and expenditure of the European Patent Judiciary relating to the Facultative Advisory Council shall form the subject of estimates in respect of each accounting period and shall be shown in a separate part of the budget of the European Patent Judiciary. This part of the budget shall be balanced in its own right.

(3) Contracting States having made a declaration under Article 83d, paragraph 1, may limit their contributions to the budget of the European Patent Judiciary to the contributions under paragraph 1(c).

UK, FR: Voting rights should be attractive enough to encourage participation at least under Part Va (FAC) of the EPLA.

CH, MC: Reservations against the extent of voting rights, in particular paragraph (1)(a) and (e).

Decisions on

(re-)appointment and removal from office of judges of Court of Appeal and the Registrar

adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the FAC

financial contributions made in respect of the FAC by Contracting States

financial matters, in particular the budget of the European Patent Judiciary, and Financial Regulations

adoption of Service Regulations

chairperson of and observers to the Administrative Committee

Article 83f

Voting rights in the Administrative Committee of Contracting States which have entered a reservation

(1) Any Contracting State having made a declaration under Article 83d, paragraph 1, shall have the right to vote on decisions being taken by the Administrative Committee

(a) under Articles 4, 8, 11, 12 of the Statute if the decision concerns a judge of the Court of Appeal or the Registrar;

(b) under Article 83c, paragraph 6;

(c) under Article 83e, paragraph 1(c);

(d) relating to the adoption of that part of the budget of the European Patent Judiciary concerning the Facultative Advisory Council and decisions under Article 17, paragraph 2(c), Article 21, paragraph 2, Article 22, paragraph 1, Article 27, paragraph 2, and Article 30, paragraph 4, as far as they concern the Facultative Advisory Council;

(e) under Article 17, paragraph 2(d);

(f) under Articles 14 and 15, paragraphs 3 and 4.

Under the proposed Article 83f, no voting rights for FAC States in the two cases where unanimity is required (see Art. 18(2)).

(2) For decisions under paragraph 1(b) to (f), Article 18, paragraph 3 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The procedure for decisions under paragraph 1(d) shall be governed by the Financial Regulations.

PART VI TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 84 Scope

The Agreement shall cover
- all European patents which are effective when it enters into force,
- all European patents granted in respect of applications filed before the entry into force of the Agreement, and which became effective after that date, and, of course,
- European patents resulting from applications filed on or after its entry into force.

Letter (b) is necessary since the European Patent Court would be competent to decide also on provisional protection of European patent applications.

By adding the word "and", it is made clear that the introductory part refers to both paragraphs in the article.

This Agreement shall apply to

(a) any European patent which at the time of its entry into force was already effective in one or more Contracting States, or was granted for and became effective in one or more Contracting States after that date

and

(b) any European patent application pending at the time of its entry into force, or filed on or after that date, unless proceedings on such European patent or patent application were initiated before a national court or other competent authority of a Contracting State prior to that date.

**Article 85 Jurisdiction of national courts
 during a transitional period**

(1) During the first seven calendar years after this Agreement has entered into force, proceedings for infringement or revocation of a European patent may still be initiated before the national court or other competent authority of a Contracting State having jurisdiction under national law which for that purpose shall continue to apply to European patents effective in the Contracting States. This Agreement shall not apply to such proceedings.

(2) Any proceedings pending before a national court at the end of the transitional period shall continue to be subject to the transitional regime.

Article 86 Evaluation

Five years after this Agreement has entered into force, the Administrative Committee shall evaluate the situation and may decide to extend the transitional period under Article 85, paragraph 1. If no decision to that effect is taken, the transitional period shall expire at the end of the seventh calendar year after this Agreement has entered into force.

CHAPTER II FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 87 Texts supplementing the Agreement

Integral parts of this Agreement shall be:

- the Statute,
- the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Patent Judiciary,
- the Rules of Procedure once adopted by the Administrative Committee.

Article 88 Signature, ratification

(1) This Agreement shall be open for signature until *** for all Contracting States to the European Patent Convention which participated in the Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of a European Patent Litigation System.

(2) This Agreement shall be subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of ***.

Article 89 Accession

(1) This Agreement shall be open to accession by any Contracting State to the European Patent Convention [and to the European Community].

(2) Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Government of ***.

Art. 164 EPC

*** indication of date, e.g. for a period of six months after a Diplomatic Conference

If the EPLA is to be open to accession by the European Community, it is not sufficient merely to add a clause in Article 89. The possibility of accession by the EC has further implications. Appropriate solutions must be found for the definition of the contracting parties to the EPLA, the composition of the

Administrative Committee and delegates' voting rights, and for the provisions on financing the European Patent Judiciary. In-depth study may reveal further issues.

Provision necessary because of the inclusion in the EPLA of the rules governing the FAC.

The values for "n" mentioned during the discussion within the Working Party on Litigation in December 2002 were 2, 5 and 6. No decision was taken on this. According to the UK delegation, the cost of setting up the system must be taken into account in this context as it has to be borne by those States whose ratification or accession leads to the entry into force of the Agreement.

Reservation by SE as to the choice of three for the number of States in which the highest number of European patents was in force.

Article 89a Reservations

A Contracting State may enter no other reservation than that specified in Article 83d.

Article 90 Entry into force

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force [***] months after the deposit of the last instrument of ratification or accession by [n] Contracting States to the European Patent Convention which have not entered a reservation under Article 83d, including at least one of the three States in which the highest number of European patents was in force in the year preceding the year in which the Diplomatic Conference took place.

(2) Any ratification or accession after the entry into force of this Agreement shall take effect on the first day of the third month after the deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession.

The requirements listed in Art. 21(3) and (4) shall also apply to the first distribution key. However, the relevant figures must, of course, be those relating to the situation before entry into force of the EPLA. After [five] years, Art. 21(4) will apply.

This way of fixing the initial contributions can also apply to FAC States.

The last part of the sentence makes it clear that only cases for which the European Patent Court would have had jurisdiction are to be taken into consideration for the calculation of the contribution (see also Art. 21(3)(b) Draft Agreement)

For States joining the EPLA after its entry into force, participation in the distribution key valid at the time in question should be acceptable, given that the key will be regularly updated. The percentages for all the Contracting States will be recalculated with effect from the date of entry into force of the EPLA in the new State.

Article 91 First distribution key, initial contributions

(1) On the entry into force of this Agreement the Contracting States shall provide initial financial contributions necessary for actually setting up the European Patent Judiciary and in particular the European Patent Court. The level of such contributions shall be determined by the Administrative Committee. Article 21, paragraphs 3 and 4, shall apply, with the proviso that the relevant years shall be the last three years preceding the year of entry into force of this Agreement, and the relevant number of European patents which are the subject of litigation shall be the number of European patents which are the subject of litigation before the national courts and for which the European Patent Court would have had jurisdiction under this agreement.

(2) Initial contributions of States ratifying this Agreement or acceding to it after its entry into force shall be calculated on the basis of the figures for the years relevant to the distribution key valid at the time of their ratification or accession.

Art. 91 also applies to Contracting States participating only in the FAC system; these states too are interested in setting up the European Patent Judiciary and, in particular, the Court of Appeal of the European Patent Court, as this is a prerequisite for the functioning of the FAC.

Art. 171 EPC

Art. 172 EPC

Article 92 Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 93 Revision

- (1) This Agreement may be revised by a Conference of the Contracting States.
- (2) The Conference shall be prepared and convened by the Administrative Committee. The Conference shall not be validly constituted unless at least three-quarters of the Contracting States are represented at it. Adoption of the revised text shall require a majority of three-quarters of the Contracting States represented and voting at the Conference. Abstentions shall not be considered as votes.
- (3) The revised text shall enter into force when it has been ratified or acceded to by the number of Contracting States specified by the Conference, and at the time specified by that Conference.
- (4) Such States as have not ratified or acceded to the revised text of the Agreement at the time of its entry into force shall cease to be parties to this Agreement as from that time.

Art. 174 EPC

Article 94 Denunciation

Any Contracting State may at any time denounce this Agreement. Denunciation shall be notified to the Government of ***. It shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of such notification.

Art. 175 EPC

Article 95 Preservation of acquired rights

If a State ceases to be party to this Agreement, the Agreement shall continue to apply to any proceedings pending before the European Patent Court at the date on which denunciation takes effect, and to the resulting decisions.

Art. 176 EPC

Article 96 Financial rights and obligations of a former Contracting State

Any State which has ceased to be a party to this Agreement in accordance with Article 93, paragraph 4, or Article 94 shall have the financial contributions paid under Article 21, paragraph 2, or Article 22 refunded to it by the European Patent Judiciary only when the European Patent Judiciary refunds financial contributions paid by other States during the same accounting period, and under the same conditions.

Art. 177 EPC

Article 97 Languages of the Agreement

This Agreement, drawn up in a single original, in the English, French and German languages, shall be deposited in the archives of ***, the three texts being equally authentic.

Article 98 Disputes between Contracting States

(1) Any dispute between Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement which is not settled by negotiation shall be submitted, at the request of one of the States concerned, to the Administrative Committee, which shall endeavour to bring about agreement between the States concerned.

(2) If such agreement is not reached, any one of the States concerned may submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice for a binding decision.

Article 99 Transmission and notifications

(1) The Government of *** shall draw up certified true copies of this Agreement and shall transmit them to the Governments of all signatory or acceding States.

(2) The Government of *** shall notify to the Governments of the States referred to in paragraph 1:

- (a) any signature;
- (b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification or accession;

Consequence of insertion of
Part Va into the Agreement

- (c) any reservation or withdrawal of reservation pursuant to Article 83e;
 - (d) the date of entry into force of this Agreement;
 - (e) any denunciation under Article 94 and the date on which such denunciation comes into force.
- (3) The Government of *** shall register this Agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Plenipotentiaries authorised thereto, having presented their Full Powers, found to be in good and due form, have signed this Agreement.

Done at *** this *** day of *** two thousand ***