

European and International Patent Law

I. Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

On the basis of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) of 1976, a patent for a large number of countries (e.g. USA, Japan, Germany) can be applied for by filing a *single application with* the competent receiving office via WIPO. This is transferred to the respective national granting procedures and can then lead to the granting of individual patents in the respective countries according to national law.

=> Facilitates only the *filing* of the application.

II. European Patent Convention (EPC)

The European Patent Convention (EPC) of 1976 makes it possible to obtain a European patent in a *single procedure* through the European Patent Office (EPO) with validity for the contracting states.

=> In a single procedure, the applicant obtains a *bundle of* national patents.

III. Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court

For the first time a unified, supranational patent law is created through

- the Unitary Patent Regulation (EPatVO), Regulation (EU) No. 1257/2012
- the Regulation on the Applicable Translation Arrangements (EPatÜbersVO), VO (EU) No. 1260/2012
- the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPC, EPGÜ)

Unified Patent Court

Court of Appeals in Luxembourg

Court of First Instance

Central Chamber in Paris with branch offices in Munich (Mechanical Engineering) and previously London (Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology), now probably in Milan

Regional Chamber in Stockholm for Sweden and the Baltic Countries

Local Chambers in

- Brussels (Belgium)
- The Hague (Netherlands)
- Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Mannheim, Munich (Germany)
- Helsinki (Finland)
- Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Lisbon (Portugal)
- Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Milan (Italy)
- Paris (France)
- Vienna (Austria)