

TRANSLATION COSTS FOR GRANTED EUROPEAN PATENTS

Following our newsletter of 24 September 2007 reporting the likely implementation of the "London Agreement" in early 2008, it has now been confirmed that this agreement will enter into force on **1 May 2008**.

This means that for countries party to the agreement it will no longer be necessary to translate the full patent specification into a local language. In such cases, only the claims will need to be translated into the local language, dependent upon the language of publication of the specification of the European patent.

At the present time, regrettably, the precise details of implementation of the agreement in each relevant country, the effective dates, and the exact costs savings available, have not yet been announced by several of the countries involved. However, it can be expected that in the relevant countries the translation costs will be reduced approximately in proportion to the number of pages of description in the patent specification compared to the total number of pages in the patent specification. In most cases, this will be a substantial reduction.

The countries intending to implement the agreement are presently Switzerland/Liechtenstein, Germany, Denmark, France, UK, Croatia, Iceland, Luxembourg, Latvia, Monaco, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia. If you have recently given us instructions for the national processing of European patents that are about to be granted, you may wish to consider whether to extend the number of countries that you selected, on the expectation of significant cost reductions.

Until details of all the revised costs are known, our forward estimates for European national processing will continue to be based on the costs of obtaining full translations. However, our final invoices will take into account any savings that can be achieved for any given country.

For further advice on any specific matter, please contact your usual adviser at Potter Clarkson.

The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Potter Clarkson LLP. All comments contained here are of a general nature and full professional advice should be sought on any specific problem. Please note that all our Newsletters can be found on our website at www.potterclarkson.com.

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