

## News from Abroad: EPO Fee Increases from 1 April 2012

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The European Patent Office ("EPO") recently [announced](#) that most of its fees will increase by between 5 and 10 per cent from 1 April 2012.

### The changes in fees

A comparison of the old and new fees is given below (this shows the changes in the most common fees paid to the EPO; there are fee increases for other fees which are less commonly paid).

Fee	Prior to 1 April 2012/€	From 1 April 2012/€	Change/€
e-filing fee	105	115	10
Fee for each page over 35	13	14	1
Search/supplementary search fee	1105	1165	60
Designation fee for all states	525	555	35
Renewal fee for the 3rd year	420	445	25
Renewal fee for the 4th year	525	555	30
Renewal fee for the 5th year	735	775	40
Renewal fee for the 6th year	945	995	50
Renewal fee for the 7th year	1050	1105	55
Renewal fee for the 8th year	1155	1215	60
Renewal fee for the 9th year	1260	1325	65
Renewal fee for the 10th and each subsequent year	1420	1495	75
Examination fee	1480	1555	75
Examination fee for Euro-PCT where EPO was ISA	1645	1730	85
Fee for grant	830	875	45
Opposition fee	705	745	40
Fee for appeal	1180	1240	60
Fee for further processing (late performance of acts)	225	240	15
Fee for late furnishing of sequence listing	210	220	10
Claims fee (each claim between 16 and 50)	210	225	15
Claims fee (each claim greater than 50)	525	555	30

### Practical implications

If you know that you want to enter the European regional phase of a PCT application, you should do so before 1 April 2012, to save around 5% on the official fees due.

For example, a typical PCT application might have 35 pages and 15 claims, with the USPTO as the International Searching Authority (ISA). If that PCT application enters the European regional phase on or after 1 April 2012, the total official fees will be €3215. If it enters the European regional phase *before* 1 April 2012, the total official fees will be €3020 (saving slightly more than 5% in the official fees).

Exactly the same principle applies to filing a new European patent application directly at the EPO. It particularly applies to new divisional applications, where the savings on accumulated renewal fees can be considerable.

Therefore, if possible, you should file new European patent applications (particularly divisionals), and enter the European regional phase of PCT applications, before 1 April 2012.

The EPO has elected not to introduce a new payment structure. The changes in fees will not change day-to-day practice, save for the need to pay higher official fees. Therefore, our [previous practical advice](#), for example concerning minimising the number of claims, still applies.

The other major practice change the EPO has proposed from 1 April 2012 concerns the new grant procedure reported [here](#).

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