

# Kluwer Patent Blog

## EPO to introduce micro entity fee reductions

Laurence Lai (Simmons & Simmons LLP) · Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

From 1 April 2024, the European Patent Office will **increase most official fees** by around 4%. The first two renewal fees, in respect of the third and fourth years, will also see significant rises of 30% in an effort to offset revenue lost as a result of the EPO reducing application pendency time.

Hand in hand with the increases will be a **new fee reduction system** which will be able to be leveraged by microenterprises, natural persons, non-profits, universities and public research organisations. Currently, fee discounts are only available to those types of entities (as well as small and medium-sized enterprises) if they are based in an EPO member state and use a language other than English, French or German for the specification and/or request for examination.

Those language-based fee reductions will remain in place and continue to reduce the filing and examination fees by 30%. The new fee reduction system will also offer a 30% discount and be more extensive, covering the major fees of filing, search, designation, examination, grant and renewal.

Daisy-chaining fee discounts will be possible with reductions on the same fee for the same application to be calculated sequentially. This means that eligible micro entities would obtain a discount of 51% on the filing and examination fees.

Applicants will be able to self-declare eligibility on the request for grant and European regional phase entry forms.

An application will be eligible for reduced fees for its lifetime as long as the applicant remains a micro entity and the applicant has filed fewer than five European applications in the five years preceding the filing date of the application or, if the application is a Euro-PCT, the European regional phase entry date.

The new fee reduction system continues to refer to a European Commission recommendation which defines that a microenterprise is an enterprise which employs fewer than ten people and whose annual turnover or balance sheet total does not exceed €2 million.

### EPO fee schedule 2022 to 2024

Fee	2022 €	2023 €	2024 €	2023-2024 change €	
1. Filing fee where documents are filed online	130	135	135	0	0.0%
1a. Additional page fee for each page over 35 pages	16	17	17	0	0.0%

Fee	2022 €	2023 €	2024 €	2023-2024 change €	%
1b. Additional fee in the case of a divisional application					
– fee for a divisional application of second generation	225	235	235	0	0.0%
– fee for a divisional application of third generation	455	480	480	0	0.0%
– fee for a divisional application of fourth generation	680	715	715	0	0.0%
– fee for a divisional application of fifth or any subsequent generation	910	955	955	0	0.0%
2. Search fee in respect of					
– a European or supplementary European search on an application filed on or after 1 July 2005	1390	1460	1520	60	4.1%
– a European or supplementary European search on an application filed before 1 July 2005	950	1000	1040	40	4.0%
– an international search	1775	1775	1845	70	3.9%
– a supplementary international search	1775	1775	1845	70	3.9%
3. Designation fee for one or more Contracting States	630	660	685	25	3.8%
4. Renewal fees for the European patent application					
– for the 3rd year	505	530	690	160	30.2%
– for the 4th year	630	660	845	185	28.0%
– for the 5th year	880	925	1000	75	8.1%
– for the 6th year	1125	1180	1155	-25	-2.1%
– for the 7th year	1245	1305	1310	5	0.4%
– for the 8th year	1370	1440	1465	25	1.7%
– for the 9th year	1495	1570	1620	50	3.2%
– for the 10th and each subsequent year	1690	1775	1775	0	0.0%
5. Additional fee for belated payment of a renewal fee for the European patent application	50% of the belated renewal fee				
6. Examination fee in respect of:					
– an application filed before 1 July 2005	1955	2055	2135	80	3.9%
– an application filed on or after 1 July 2005	1750	1840	1915	75	4.1%
– an international application filed on or after 1 July 2005 for which no supplementary European search report is drawn up	1955	2055	2135	80	3.9%
7. Fee for grant, including fee for publication of the European patent specification	990	1040	1080	40	3.8%
10. Opposition fee	840	880	880	0	0.0%
10a. Limitation or revocation fee					
– request for limitation	1245	1305	1355	50	3.8%
– request for revocation	560	590	615	25	4.2%
11. Fee for appeal					
– by a natural person or an entity specified by the EPO	2015	2015	2015	0	0.0%
– by any other entity	2785	2925	2925	0	0.0%
11a. Fee for petition for review	3115	3270	3400	130	4.0%
12. Fee for further processing					
– in the event of late payment of a fee	50% of the relevant fee				
– in the event of late performance of the acts required	275	290	300	10	3.4%

Fee	2022 €	2023 €	2024 €	2023-2024 change €	change %
– other cases	275	290	300	10	3.4%
13. Fee for re-establishment of rights/fee for requesting restoration/fee for reinstatement of rights	685	720	750	30	4.2%
14. Conversion fee	80	85	0	-85	-100.0%
14a. Fee for late furnishing of a sequence listing	245	225	265	40	17.8%
15. Claims fee					
– for the 16th and each subsequent claim up to the limit of 50	250	265	275	10	3.8%
– for the 51st and each subsequent claim	630	660	685	25	3.8%
16. Fee for the awarding of costs	80	85	90	5	5.9%
18. Transmittal fee for an international application	140	145	150	5	3.4%
19. Fee for the preliminary examination of an international application	1830	1840	1915	75	4.1%
20. Fee for a technical opinion	4175	4385	4560	175	4.0%
21. Protest fee	935	980	1020	40	4.1%
22. Review fee	935	980	1020	40	4.1%

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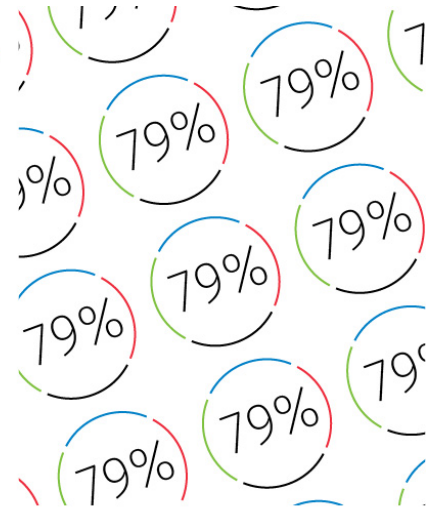
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