

The European Patent Register

The [European Patent Register](#) is an extremely useful platform for patent attorneys, paralegals and anyone else who wants to find out information relating to European patents and published patent applications.

It provides a comprehensive file history for each granted patent or published application and it contains the bibliographic details for the patent or application, links to the legal status of the national patents derived from the European patent, an event history, links to documents cited during search procedures and to published applications and patents in the same family filed in other countries and copies of publicly-available documents and correspondence between the European patent office and the appointed European representative.

The site also provides a direct link to the patent via Espacenet, where copies of the published and/or granted patent documents for not only the European patent itself, but also for any corresponding patents or applications, can be accessed.

This is the most direct way to access data relating to European patents and published applications if you know either the European publication or application number you are searching for (or the international patent application number if the European case is derived out of the PCT system). If the European application or publication number is known, this number is simply entered into the correct search field as either a seven-digit publication number (E.g., 1234567) or an eight-digit application number (E.g., 1234567.8). However, if you only have details of the International (PCT) application number, then this needs to be entered into the search field in a specific format, starting with 'WO', followed by the year and country where the PCT application was originally filed and ending with the last five digits of the application number so, for example, PCT/US2016/012345 would be entered into the application number search field as 'WO2016US12345'.

As with most patent office databases, there are other fields available in the advanced search, which can be used to try to locate a particular case, even if you do not know the European or PCT application or publication number.

Once the details have been entered into the correct search field in the advanced search, the section headed 'About this File' appears on screen. This shows the bibliographic details for the searched case opens up automatically and includes details of:

- the current status of the application/patent

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- the names and addresses of the applicant, inventor and professional representative
- any priority details, as well as application, publication and final numbers and dates
- the designated states
- the formal title of the application
- events which have taken place, the official fees which have been paid (including annuity payments)
- searches and citations

By clicking on the Legal Status heading, you can see a list of the states designated in this application and, once granted, this will include (where available) direct links to the local patent office register entry for the granted patent. You can then look at the German patent office record, or the UK patent office record, for example.

The Event History heading summarises details of any events which have taken place during the prosecution and grant of the European patent you are looking at.

The Citations heading obviously lists the citations made against the European patent and provides links to these documents.

Patent Family gives details of all applications and patents which correspond to the European patent and provides access to published specifications, as well as a 'global dossier' of documents relating to that case. The final section 'All Documents' consists of pdf copies of all publicly-available documents and correspondence which has taken place on the file between the European Patent Office and the applicant, and these can be downloaded if required. This section is extremely useful when taking over cases from other attorneys as it provides a full file history for the case from filing to the current position, including copies of official actions, amendments which have been made to the application through prosecution, search details and formality details.

Link to Espacenet

Finally, there is the option to view the European patent or application via the [Espacenet](#) platform, where you will gain access not only to useful bibliographic details, but also pending published application and granted patent documents (not only for the European case, but also for any corresponding foreign cases), which are freely available to download if required. The documents contained in Espacenet are also downloadable in a word-processable format, enabling the attorney or paralegal to make amendments to the specification and/or claims even if they do not have access to a WORD version of the specification.

What next?

If you would like more information, then please get in touch. You can email us info@barkerbrettell.co.uk or call us on **+44 (0)121 456 0000**.