

Decision of the Administrative Council of 13 December 2001 amending Rule 29(2) EPC CA/128/01

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION,

Having regard to the European Patent Convention (EPC), and in particular [Article 33\(1\)\(b\)](#) thereof,

On a proposal from the President of the European Patent Office,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Patent Law,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Rule 29(2) EPC shall be amended to read as follows:

"(2) Without prejudice to Article 82, a European patent application may contain more than one independent claim in the same category (product, process, apparatus or use) only if the subject-matter of the application involves one of the following:

- (a) a plurality of inter-related products;
- (b) different uses of a product or apparatus;
- (c) alternative solutions to a particular problem, where it is not appropriate to cover these alternatives by a single claim."

Article 2

Rule 29(2) EPC as amended by this decision shall enter into force on 2 January 2002 and shall apply to all European patent applications in respect of which a communication under Rule 51(4) EPC has not yet been despatched by that date.

Done at Munich, 13 December 2001

For the Administrative Council
The Chairman

Roland GROSSENBACHER

