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IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE GRANT OF EUROPEAN PATENTS

 ${\it of 5\ October\ 1973}$ as last amended by Decision of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation of 9 December 2004

Rule 44a

Extended European search report

- (1) The European search report shall be accompanied by an opinion on whether the application and the invention to which it relates seem to meet the requirements of this Convention, unless a communication under Rule 51, paragraph 2 or paragraph 4, can be issued.
- (2) The opinion under paragraph 1 shall not be published together with the search report.

Rule 51

Examination procedure

(4) Before the Examining Division decides to grant the European patent, it shall inform the applicant of the text in which it intends to grant it, and shall invite him to pay the fees for grant and printing and to file a translation of the claims in the two official languages of the European Patent Office other than the language of the proceedings within a non-extendable period to be specified, which may not be less than two months or more than four months. If the applicant pays the fees

and files the translation within this period, he shall be deemed to have approved the text intended for grant.

Rule 54

Certificate for a European patent

As soon as the specification of the European patent has been published, the European Patent Office shall issue to the proprietor of the patent a certificate for a European patent. The President of the European Patent Office shall prescribe the content, form and means of communication of the certificate and determine the circumstances in which an administrative fee is payable.

Rule 108

Consequences of non-fulfilment of certain requirements

(4) Designation fees in respect of which the applicant has dispensed with notification of the communication under paragraph 3 may still be validly paid within two months of expiry of the applicable time limit, provided that within this period a surcharge is paid.

Done at Munich, 9 December 2004.