

London Agreement

The London Agreement that lays down rules pertaining to the requirements of filing translations of a European Patents for its validation in the member states enters into force on 1.5.2008.

The Parties to the Agreement having their national language in common with one of the European Patent Office's (EPO) official languages (German, English, French) undertake to waive the requirement for translations of European patents to be filed in their national language. A Party having no official language in common with one of the official languages of the EPO may request a translation of the European patent claims into one of its official languages. In addition, such a Party may require that the description of the European patent be supplied in the official language of the EPO prescribed by that state.

Currently 17 member states of the European Patent Convention acceded to the London agreement.

The current translation requirements for validating a European Patent are as following:

	Required translation	
	Claims	Description
Denmark	National language	English, National lang.
Germany	German**	.*
Finland	National lang.	English, National lang.
France	French**	.*
Iceland	National lang.	English, National lang.
Croaty	National lang.	English
Lettland	National lang.	.*
Liechtenstein	.*	.*
Lithuania	National lang.	.*
Luxemburg	.*	.*
Monaco	.*	.*
Netherlands	National lang.	English, National lang.
Switzerland	.*	.*
Sweden	National lang.	English
Slowenia	National lang.	.*
Hungary	National lang.	English, National lang.
United Kingdom	English**	.*

* no translation required

** translation required for grant of EP

As of 1.11.2011