

DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
of 19 June 2008
inviting the Republic of Serbia to accede to the
European Patent Convention

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION,

Having regard to the request of the Republic of Serbia of 16 November 2007 that the Administrative Council invite that country to accede to the European Patent Convention (EPC),

Desiring to extend the unitary European patent grant procedure established by the EPC to the Republic of Serbia and thereby to promote the long-term integration of that country into the European economic area,

Considering that membership of the Republic of Serbia in the European Patent Organisation is part of the *acquis communautaire* and thereby represents an important contribution to furthering that country's aim of integration into the European Union,

In recognition of the great efforts made by the Republic of Serbia to bring its national patent law into line with the European and international legal system and to modernise its patent system, and of the reforms it has already carried out,

In the expectation that the Republic of Serbia will take all the remaining steps necessary to bring its national patent law into line with the common European standards of the contracting states to the EPC as well as with international standards of patent protection,

In the expectation that the Republic of Serbia will enact suitable national legislation, or adapt its existing legal provisions, to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of the EPC, taking account of the legal requirements which already apply in the EPC contracting states and of future developments in the European patent system,

Having regard to the EPC, and in particular Article 166(1)(b) thereof,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Republic of Serbia is invited to accede to the European Patent Convention.

Article 2

The Chairman of the Administrative Council shall forward a copy of this decision to the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

This decision shall enter into force on 19 June 2008.

Done at Munich, 19 June 2008

For the Administrative Council
The Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roland GROSSENBACHER', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Roland GROSSENBACHER