

Chapter VII – Languages

1. Admissible languages on filing

1.1 General

The international application, i.e. the request, description, claim(s), drawing(s) and abstract, must be filed with the EPO as receiving Office in English, French or German.

Art. 3(4)(i)

R. 12.1

R. 19.4(a)(ii)

An international application filed in another language will be forwarded to the IB to act as receiving Office instead of the EPO. This means that it is not possible to file an international application with the EPO as receiving Office in a language other than the three indicated in Art. 14 EPC for European patent applications not filed via the PCT route (Euro-direct applications).

1.2 International application filed in multiple languages

1.2.1 Abstract and text matter of the drawings

If the abstract and/or any text matter of the drawings is not filed in the same language as the description and claims, the applicant will be invited to correct the defect by the EPO as receiving Office (Form PCT/RO/106) within two months of the date of the invitation. If the applicant replies to the invitation within the prescribed time limit by submitting the translation in the language indicated in the invitation, the international filing date will remain unaffected.

Rule 26.3ter(a),

GL/RO 62-64

1.2.2 Request

The request (including any declaration contained in the request under Rule 4.17) may be filed with the EPO as receiving Office in any official language of the EPO (e.g. the request filed in German and the rest of the application in English).

R. 12.1(c)

GL/RO 59

If the request is not filed in an official language of the EPO, the applicant will be invited to correct the defect (Form PCT/RO/106) within two months of the date of the invitation.

R. 26.3ter(c)

GL/RO 60

If the applicant replies to the invitation within the prescribed time limit by submitting the translation in one of the official languages of the EPO, the international filing date will remain unaffected.

1.2.3 Description and claims

1.2.3.1 Sentences or short fragments of the description and/or claims in a language other than the language of the proceedings

If the description and/or claims contain sentences or short fragments in a language other than the language of the proceedings, the applicant will be invited by the EPO as receiving Office (PCT/RO/108) to submit a request for rectification under Rule 91 to the EPO as International Searching Authority together with the translation of the relevant parts in the language of the application.

R. 91