	c) Business trips	706
	d) Speaking at a conference	706
	e) National holiday	706
	f) Newly appointed representative	707
	g) Obligation to give reasons as to why a representative cannot be	
	substituted	707
	h) Absence of duly represented party or of inventor	707
	i) Flight cancellation along with impossibility of using other travel	
	means	708
	j) Postponement because of late receipt of board's communication	708
	k) New evidence or requests	708
	l) Proceedings before a national court	709
	m) Postponement in order to avoid adverse decision of the board	709
	n) Ongoing takeover negotiations between both parties	709
	o) Expected childbirth by the partner of the professional	
	representative	709
	p) COVID-19 pandemic	710
	g) Representative unable to identify authorised person	710
	r) Unavailability of an accompanying person –	
	Article 15(2)(c)(iv) RPBA 2020	710
6.1.5	Postponement of the oral hearing at the instigation of the EPO	710
6.2.	Notice of two months in the summons	710
6.3.	Final date for written submissions in the preparation for oral proceedings	
	and late submission of new facts and evidence – Rule 116 EPC	711
6.3.1	General issues	711
6.3.2	Examination and opposition proceedings	712
6.4.	Communication under Article 15(1) RPBA 2020	714
6.4.1	General issues	714
6.4.2	Purpose of communication under Article 15(1) RPBA 2007 or Article	
	15(1) RPBA 2020	714
6.4.3	Boards not bound by communication under Article 15(1) RPBA 2007 or	
	Article 15(1) RPBA 2020	715
6.4.4	Boards' discretion to send communication under Article 15(1) RPBA 2007	715
6.5.	Location of oral proceedings	715
7.	Conduct of oral proceedings	716
7.1.	Length and structuring of oral proceedings	716
7.1.1	Speaking time during oral proceedings and interruptions by the board	716
7.1.2	Oral proceedings scheduled from the start for more than one day	717
7.1.3	Continuation of oral proceedings beyond the last scheduled day	717
7.1.4	Duration of deliberations	717
	Excluding the public from oral proceedings	
7.3.	Oral proceedings held by videoconference	718
	Legal basis	718
7.3.2	Oral proceedings by videoconference in case of general emergency –	
	G 1/21	718
7.3.3	Decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic and before G 1/21	720
7.3.4	Case law prior to the COVID-19 pandemic	721