

If an international application is filed by fax, the date on which the application documents are received in full is accorded as the date of filing, provided that the requirements under Art. 11 are fulfilled (see GL/PCT-EPO A-II, 4.1).

If an international application is filed by fax, the original, i.e. the confirmation copy, must be filed, preferably simultaneously, and the fax should state that the confirmation copy has been filed separately on paper at the same time. The confirmation copy should be a single copy of each document making up the application and each accompanying document. The first page of the PCT request form (PCT/RO/101) sent as a confirmation copy should be marked "CONFIRMATION COPY", followed by the date of the fax transmission. It is recommended that the confirmation copy be accompanied by EPO Form 1032, which is available on the EPO website.

If the confirmation copy has not been received within 14 days of receipt of the application, the EPO as receiving Office will despatch an invitation to submit it within a month (Form PCT/RO/141). If the confirmation copy is not provided within this time limit, the international application will be considered withdrawn (Form PCT/RO/117).

If an international application filed by fax is illegible or incomplete, or the fax transmission has failed, the application will be treated as not having been received and the sender must be notified as soon as possible using Form PCT/RO/140.

1.2.3 Filing of applications electronically

An international application may be filed electronically with the EPO as receiving Office.

The EPO offers the following free-of-charge electronic filing tools:

- Online Filing (OLF), a software application
- the case management system (CMS)
- Web-Form Filing

In addition, WIPO offers the following electronic filing options:

- PCT-SAFE
- ePCT

Filings using the OLF software may be made online or on electronic data carriers accepted by the EPO. At present, the data carriers accepted are CD-Rs conforming to ISO 9660, DVD-Rs and DVD+Rs.

All the means of electronic filing, except for the Web-Form Filing service, allow applicants to fill in the PCT request form (PCT/RO/101) directly in the

R. 89bis
OJ EPO 2018, A45,
A46
OJ EPO 2018, A25

OJ EPO 2014, A107

OJ SE 3/2007, A.5