B. Right to be heard

<u>1 </u>	Introduction	655
2.	The right to be heard under Article 113(1) EPC	656
2.1.	Violation of the right to be heard examined ex officio	656
2.2.	Causal link between the violation of the right to be heard and the final	
	decision	656
2.2.1	Appeal proceedings	656
2.2.2	First instance proceedings	657
2.3.	Surprising grounds or evidence	657
2.3.1		657
2.3.2	General principles The meaning of "grounds or evidence"	658
2.3.3	Opportunity to comment on evidence	659
2.3.4	Documents supplied by applicants but used against them	660
2.3.5	Document cited containing information already known	660
2.3.6	Reliance on the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER)	660
2.3.7	Change of provisional opinion	661
2.3.8	Statement of grounds of appeal not received by respondent	661
2.4.	Consideration of the parties' arguments, submissions and evidence	661
2.4.1	General principles	661
2.4.2	Decision must demonstrably show that arguments were heard and	
	considered	661
2.4.3	No obligation to address each and every argument	663
2.4.4	Failure to consider submissions made after a communication	663
2.4.5	Failure to consider evidence	664
2.4.6	Mere reference to jurisprudence	666
2.5.	The right to be heard and the timing of decisions	666
2.5.1	Decision could not be expected	666
2.5.2	Issuing of decision before expiry of time limit to comment	667
2.5.3	Immediate refusal after communication	668
2.5.4	Invitation to oral proceedings at short notice	668
2.6.	The right to be heard in oral proceedings	669
2.6.1	Introduction of a new claim or relevant document	670
	a) Cases in which Article 113(1) EPC was violated in relation to the	
	introduction of new claims or relevant documents	670
	b) Cases in which Article 113(1) EPC was not violated even though	
	new claims or relevant documents were introduced	672
	c) Cases where no new claims or relevant documents were	
	introduced	673
2.6.2	Introduction of new arguments	673
2.6.3	Introduction of a new ground of opposition by the opposition division	674
2.6.4	Hearing witnesses	674
2.6.5		675
2.7.	The right to be heard in case of the non-attendance of oral proceedings	675
2.7.1	Facts and evidence put forward for the first time during oral proceedings	675
2.7.2	Non-attendance at oral proceedings before the boards – case law on	
	G 4/92	676