

The REG130_OPPONENT Table

Welcome to an in-depth exploration of the `REG130_OPPONENT` table, a significant component of PATSTAT Register. This table captures essential details about opponents who file opposition to patents, a process that allows third parties to contest the validity of a granted patent. The opposition procedure is a cornerstone of maintaining patent quality, ensuring that only inventions meeting the stringent requirements of the European Patent Convention (EPC) are protected.

The `REG130_OPPONENT` table provides a comprehensive record of opponents and their agents, including names, addresses, and countries.

The opposition process allows third parties to challenge the validity of a granted European patent. The `REG130_OPPONENT` table captures key information about these proceedings, including the identity of the opponent, filing details, and procedural updates.

The opposition process follows specific stages, each marked by important dates:

1. When an Opposition is Filed:

- `DATE_OPP_FILED` (Date of Opposition Filing): This is the official date when the opposition is submitted to the EPO. It marks the start of the legal challenge against the granted patent.
- `BULLETIN_YEAR` and `BULLETIN_NR` (Publication of Opposition): The opposition is officially published in the EPO Bulletin, allowing public awareness of the challenge. These fields record the year and bulletin number in which the opposition appeared.

2. Tracking the Status of the Opposition:

- `OPPT_STATUS` (Opponent Status): This field indicates the current stage of the opposition, such as "Admissible" or other procedural statuses.
- `OPPT_STATUS_DATE` (Date of Status Change): The date when the last update was made to the opponent's status, helping to track the progression of the case.

3. Opponent and Legal Representation:

- `OPPT_NAME` (Opponent's Name) and `OPPT_COUNTRY` (Opponent's Country): These fields provide details about the entity or individual opposing the patent and their geographical location.
 - `AGENT_NAME` (Representative's Name) and `AGENT_COUNTRY` (Agent's Country): If the opponent is represented by a patent attorney or legal firm, these fields record their identity and location.
- Together, these fields provide a structured view of the opposition process, from initial filing to procedural updates, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of patent disputes.

```
In [1]: from epo.tipdata.patstat import PatstatClient
        from epo.tipdata.patstat.database.models import REG130_OPPONENT,
        REG101_APPLN
        from sqlalchemy import select, func, case, select, and_

        patstat = PatstatClient(env='PROD')

        db = patstat.orm()
```

```
In [2]: q = db.query(
        REG130_OPPONENT.id,
        REG130_OPPONENT.change_date,
        REG130_OPPONENT.bulletin_year,
        REG130_OPPONENT.bulletin_nr,
        REG130_OPPONENT.is_latest,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_nr,
        REG130_OPPONENT.customer_id,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_name,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_address_1,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_address_2,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_address_3,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_address_4,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_address_5,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_country,
        REG130_OPPONENT.date_opp_filed,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_status,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_status_date,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_name,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_address_1,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_address_2,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_address_3,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_address_4,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_address_5,
        REG130_OPPONENT.agent_country
    )

    res = patstat.df(q)
    res
```

Out [2]:

	id	change_date	bulletin_year	bulletin_nr	is_latest	oppt_nr	customer_id
0	80102340	1983-12-09	1984	6	N	1	0100700051
1	79302205	1984-05-03	1984	27	N	1	0100714631
2	80100758	1983-03-08	1983	19	N	1	0100701124
3	78200268	1982-10-15	1982	50	N	1	0100707022
4	79103720	1984-07-23	1984	39	N	1	0100704718
...
368400	14197888	2024-03-15	2024	16	N	1	0101581732
368401	16704962	2023-12-29	2024	5	N	1	0100700034
368402	15190193	2023-12-22	2024	4	N	3	0101807359
368403	18713893	2024-03-15	2024	16	N	1	0101968963
368404	17803863	2024-02-02	2024	10	Y	2	0101723521

368405 rows × 24 columns

Key Fields in the REG130_OPPONENT Table

ID (Primary Key)

The ID field serves as a technical identifier that uniquely connects patent applications across various tables.

CHANGE_DATE (Primary Key)

The `CHANGE_DATE` captures the date when the opponent-related data was last updated in the database. This is crucial for monitoring the evolution of opposition records and ensuring that the most accurate and recent data is available.

BULLETIN_YEAR (Primary Key)

In the PATSTAT database, the `BULLETIN_YEAR` field captures the year when an action or event related to a patent application was published in the EPO Bulletin. This field plays a critical role in tracking the timeline of patent events, ensuring chronological accuracy in analyses.

The `BULLETIN_YEAR` is a 4-digit numeric field (formatted as YYYY), with a default value of 0 to indicate cases where no bulletin publication is known. For entries where publication in the EPO Bulletin is confirmed, `BULLETIN_YEAR` reflects the corresponding year of publication. It is used in conjunction with `BULLETIN_NR`, which specifies the bulletin issue number.

BULLETIN_NR (Primary Key)

The `BULLETIN_NR` attribute represents the issue number of the EPO Bulletin in which a specific action has been published. This number indicates the calendar week during which the Bulletin was released. It serves as a reference for identifying the exact edition of the EPO Bulletin where actions such as patent grants, publications, or other significant events are announced.

If the action was not published in the Bulletin or if the information is unknown, the default value of 0 is used for the `BULLETIN_NR`, which corresponds to the absence of a known bulletin number. This value is only used when the associated `BULLETIN_YEAR` is also set to 0.

IS_LATEST (Indicates Latest Records)

The `IS_LATEST` attribute acts as a flag to identify the most recent and active set of opponents for a given patent application. A value of "Y" indicates the current records, while "N" marks older, historical entries.

```
In [3]: q = db.query(
        REG130_OPPONENT.is_latest
        ).distinct()

res = patstat.df(q)
res
```

Out [3]:

	is_latest
0	N
1	Y

OPPT_NR (Opponent Sequence Number) (Primary Key)

The OPPT_NR is a unique sequence number assigned to each opponent involved in opposing a specific patent. This number helps distinguish multiple opponents within the same application. Typically starting from 1, it ensures proper identification of individual opponents and their associated details, even when several parties are engaged in the same opposition procedure.

CUSTOMER_ID (Customer Identifier)

The CUSTOMER_ID represents a unique identifier assigned to an opponent. This ID links opponents to the EPO address book, allowing consistent identification of the legal or natural person across various roles, such as opponent, applicant, or representative. It provides a systematic way to track and manage opponent records.

OPPT_NAME (Opponent Name)

The `OPPT_NAME` attribute contains the name of the opponent filing the opposition. This field can hold up to 255 characters, ensuring accurate representation of individual or organizational names in the database.

OPPT_ADDRESS_1 to OPPT_ADDRESS_5 (Opponent Address Lines)

The `OPPT_ADDRESS` attributes capture the opponent's full address, spread across up to five lines. This detailed breakdown allows for comprehensive address storage, accommodating various address formats used globally.

OPPT_COUNTRY (Opponent Country)

The `OPPT_COUNTRY` field specifies the country of the opponent. It provides geographical context to opposition filings, enabling analysis of opposition activity by region.

```
In [4]: q = db.query(
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_name,
        func.count(REG130_OPPONENT.id).label("num_oppositions")
    ).group_by(REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_name).order_by(func.count(REG130_
    OPPONENT.id).desc())

    res = patstat.df(q)
    res
```

Out [4]:

	oppt_name	num_oppositions
0	Siemens Aktiengesellschaft	3725
1	The Procter & Gamble Company	3452
2	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	3311
3	Siemens AG	2600
4	BASF Aktiengesellschaft	2474
...
31814	Rainer, Fritsche	1
31815	Kverneland Group Nieuw-Vennep B.V.	1
31816	Burne, Carole Amanda	1
31817	MTC S.r.l.	1
31818	SAPA Holding AB	1

31819 rows × 2 columns

This query is counting the number of opposition records for each opponent (identified by their name) in the REG130_OPPONENT table. It groups the results by the opponent's name, counting how many times each opponent appears in the database, and orders the results in descending order based on the number of oppositions. The result provides an overview of which opponents have filed the most opposition requests against patents.

DATE_OPP_FILED (Date Opposition Filed)

The DATE_OPP_FILED records the date when the opposition was officially filed. This timestamp is critical for understanding the timeline of opposition activities and compliance with procedural deadlines.

```
In [5]: q = db.query(
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_name,
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_country,
        REG130_OPPONENT.date_opp_filed
    ).filter(REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_country == "DE").order_by(REG130_OP
PONENT.date_opp_filed)

res = patstat.df(q)
res
```

Out[5]:

	oppt_name	oppt_country	date_opp_filed
0	Akzo Patente GmbH	DE	1980-09-29
1	Hüls Aktiengesellschaft	DE	1980-11-13
2	Hüls Aktiengesellschaft	DE	1980-11-13
3	Hüls Aktiengesellschaft	DE	1980-11-13
4	Hüls Aktiengesellschaft	DE	1980-11-13
...
178695	ADITECH Flüssigkristallanzeigen GmbH	DE	9999-12-31
178696	Analytik Jena AG	DE	9999-12-31
178697	Degussa AG	DE	9999-12-31
178698	Ehrfeld Mikrotechnik BTS GmbH / Bayer Technolo...	DE	9999-12-31
178699	Braun GmbH	DE	9999-12-31

178700 rows × 3 columns

OPPT_STATUS (Opponent Status)

The `OPPT_STATUS` indicates the current status of the opponent in the opposition procedure. It reflects whether the opponent remains active, has withdrawn, or is otherwise no longer contesting the patent.

```
In [2]: q = db.query(
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_status
    ).filter(
        REG130_OPPONENT.oppt_status != ""
    ).distinct()

    res = patstat.df(q)
    res
```

Out [2]:

	oppt_status
0	ADMISSIBLE
1	DEEMED NOT TO HAVE BEEN FILED
2	WITHDRAWN
3	INTERVENTION ADMISSIBLE
4	INADMISSIBLE
5	INTERVENTION
6	INTERVENTION WITHDRAWN
7	INTERVENTION INADMISSIBLE
8	INTERVENTION DEEMED NOT FILED

OPPT_STATUS_DATE (Opponent Status Date)

The `OPPT_STATUS_DATE` provides the date when the opponent's status last changed. This is useful for tracking updates to the involvement of an opponent over time.

AGENT_NAME (Agent Name)

The `AGENT_NAME` field records the name of the representative or agent acting on behalf of the opponent. This ensures that the legal representation of the opponent is clearly documented.

AGENT_ADDRESS_1 to AGENT_ADDRESS_5 (Agent Address Lines)

The `AGENT_ADDRESS` attributes store the complete address of the agent representing the opponent. Similar to the opponent address, this information is spread across five lines for detailed recording.

AGENT_COUNTRY (Agent Country)

The `AGENT_COUNTRY` specifies the country where the agent operates. This attribute helps provide geographical insights into the legal representation involved in opposition cases.