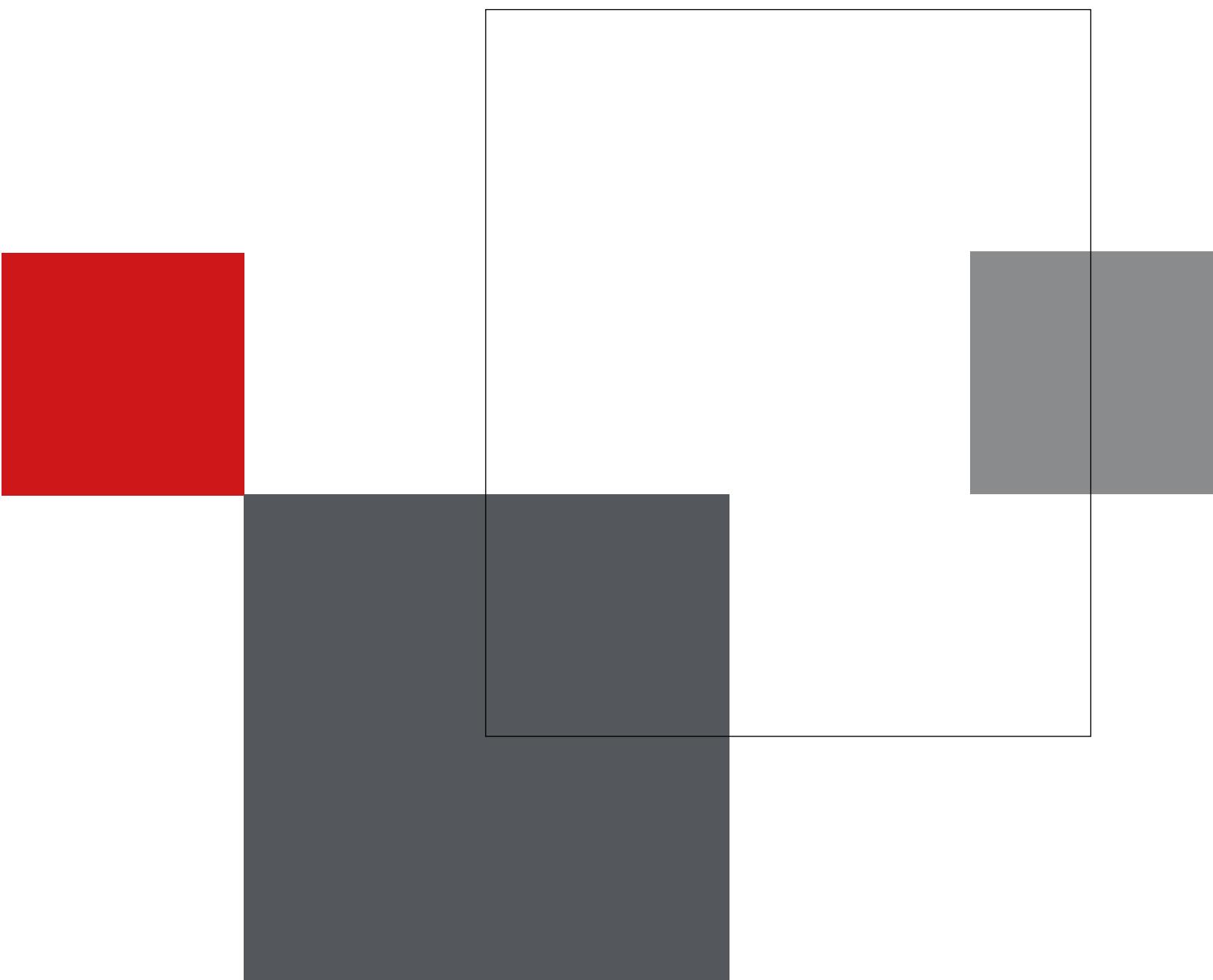


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# **European (direct) patent application**



**A European application must be filed within 12 months of the priority date if priority is claimed.**

**The documents/information/instructions required by us to prepare and file a European patent application are as follows:**

- The name and address of the applicant. If the applicant is not the inventor we preferably need the name and address of the inventor and the details of the derivation of the right of the applicant to be granted a patent from the inventor. However, the inventor details can be supplied up to 16 months from the filing date or, if priority is claimed, the priority date.
- A copy of the specification, including a description, claims and an abstract, and drawings and sequence listings if applicable. An editable copy of the specification is preferred.
- Where the language of the specification is not English, French or German a translation into one of the three languages must be provided within 2 months of filing.

• The country of filing, application number and filing date of the priority application if priority is to be claimed.

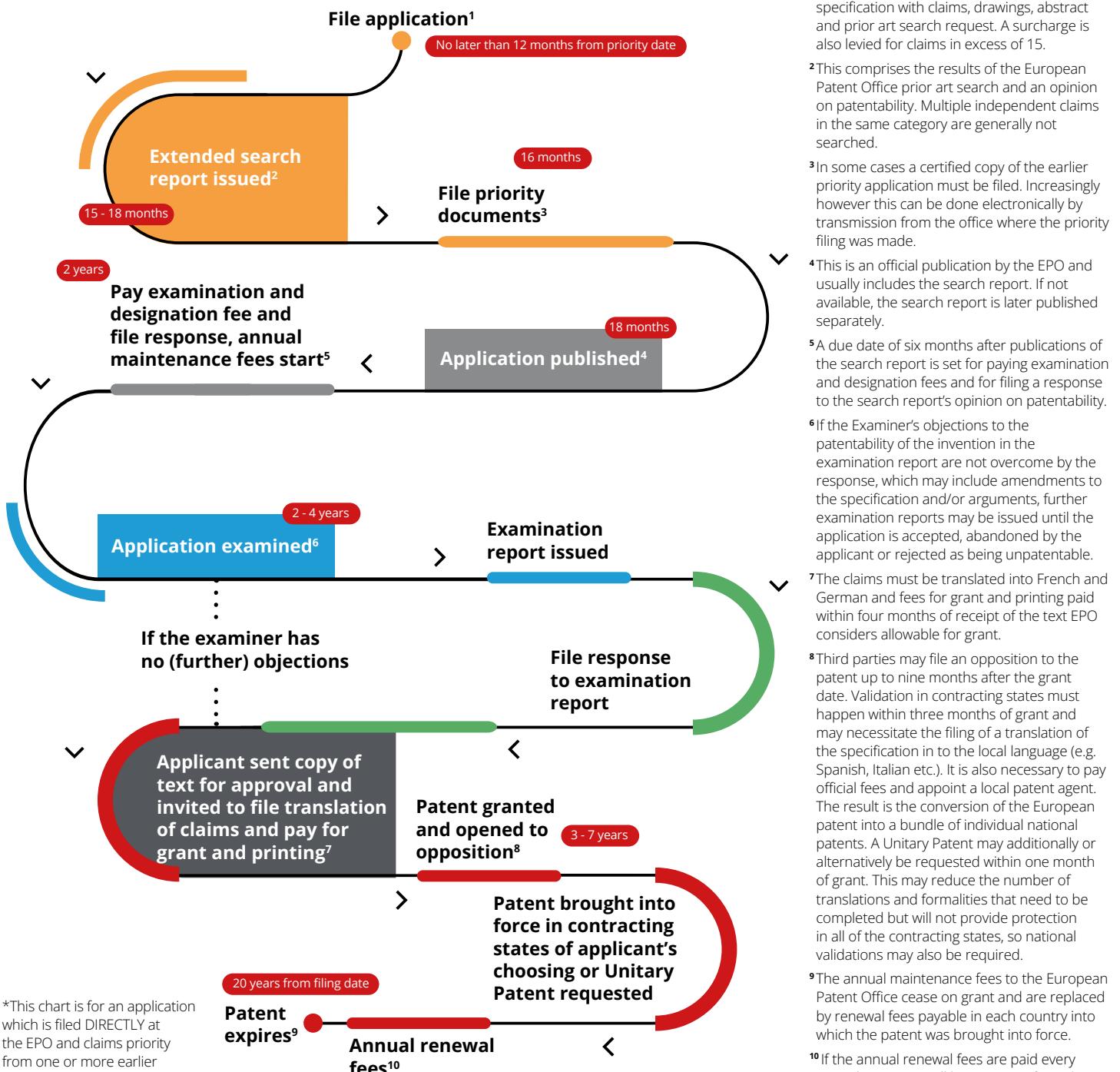
• Filing and (where applicable) search fees must be paid within 1 month of the filing date. Claims fees for the 16th and subsequent claims and additional pages fees for the 36th and subsequent pages must be also be paid within 1 month of filing. However, as we usually pay these fees upon filing, we recommend notifying us if the applicant wishes to reduce the number of claims upon filing to avoid excess claims fees.

The European Patent Office does not require any forms to be signed by the applicant. Although it does have the right to request a Power of Attorney, it rarely does so.

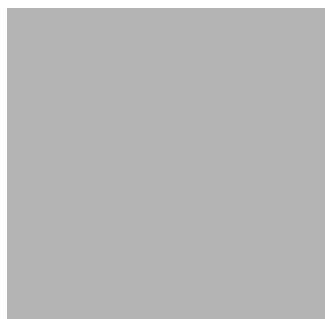
# The prosecution stages of a European patent application (claiming priority\*)

Approximate time scale  
(from priority date)

## Notes



\*This chart is for an application which is filed DIRECTLY at the EPO and claims priority from one or more earlier applications, under the Paris Convention. A separate IP process applies for applications entering the European Regional phase from the PCT.

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