DECISION
of 29 July 2004

Case Number: T 0396/04 - 3.3.7
Application Number: 96306229.4
Publication Number: 0765685
IPC: B01J 31/08

Language of the proceedings: EN

Title of invention:
Method for preparing ion-exchange resin for use as a catalyst in the synthesis of bisphenols

Applicant:
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Opponent:
-

Headword:
-

Relevant legal provisions:
EPC Art. 108
EPC R. 65(1)

Keyword:
"Missing statement of grounds"

Decisions cited:
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Catchword:
-
Case Number: T 0396/04 - 3.3.7

DECISION
of the Technical Board of Appeal 3.3.7
of 29 July 2004

Appellant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
1 River Road
Schenectady, NY 12345 (US)

Representative: Szary, Anne Catherine, Dr.
London Patent Operation
General Electric International, Inc.
15 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6LU (GB)

Decision under appeal: Decision of the Examining Division of the European Patent Office posted 2 October 2003 refusing European application No. 96306229.4 pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

Composition of the Board:
Chairman: R. E. Teschemacher
Members: B. L. ter Laan
          G. Santavicca
Summary of Facts and Submissions

I. The appeal contests the decision of the Examining Division of the European Patent Office posted on 2 October 2003 refusing European patent application No. 96 306 229.4 pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

The applicant (appellant) filed a notice of appeal on 4 December 2003 and paid the fee for appeal on the same day.

No statement of grounds was filed. The notice of appeal contains nothing that could be regarded as a statement of grounds pursuant to Article 108 EPC.

II. By a communication dated 6 May 2004, sent by registered letter with advice of delivery, the Registry of the Board informed the appellant that no statement of grounds had been filed and that the appeal could be expected to be rejected as inadmissible.

The appellant was informed about the possibility of filing a request for re-establishment of rights under Article 122 EPC and was invited to file observations within two months.

III. No answer was received within the given time limit to the Registry's communication.

IV. By letter dated 23 July 2004, the request for oral proceedings was withdrawn.
Reasons for the Decision

As no written statement setting out the grounds of appeal has been filed, the appeal has to be rejected as inadmissible (Article 108 EPC in conjunction with Rule 65(1) EPC).

Order

For these reasons it is decided that:

The appeal is rejected as inadmissible.

The Registrar: The Chairman:

C. Eickhoff R. Teschemacher