

Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets

Practical advice and examples II

Withdrawal of the international application



Withdrawal of the international application (Rule 90bis PCT)

- When: Prior to 30 months from the priority date
- How:
 - Filing a notice of withdrawal with receiving Office, International Bureau or International Preliminary Examining Authority if ongoing PCT Chapter II
 - Waiver does not apply
- Effect:
 - Upon receipt of the notice by the applicant
 - International publication will not take place if the notice reaches the IB before technical preparations for publication are completed

Real examples: preventing publication (1/2)

Example 1: Conditional withdrawal	Example 2: Short time frames
 Applicant requests withdrawal on condition that the application is not published 	 Applicant requests withdrawal on condition that the application is not published
The notice of withdrawal is received at RO/EP at 15 months from the priority date	 The notice of withdrawal is received at RO/EP 15 days prior to the date scheduled for international publication
The notice of withdrawal is signed by all applicants	 The notice of withdrawal is signed by all applicants

Real examples: preventing publication (2/2)

Example 3: Non payment of fees	Example 4: Deemed common representative
 Applicant announces that the international search fee will not be paid and he thus requests that the processing of the application is 	 Notice of withdrawal signed by deemed common representative Conditional withdrawal subject to non-
discontinued	publication
 The notice is signed by the single applicant 	

Many thanks for your attention!

Feel welcome to contact me: iaurialansac@epo.org