



EUROPEAN PUBLICATION SERVER

REST SERVICES REFERENCE GUIDE

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Revision Sheet

Revision n°	Date	Revision Description
1.3	2016/09	Section 1.3: download limit increased to 4GB
1.2	2016/02	Contact point changed. Section 2: improve URL responses. Section 4: clarify the exchange of user-agent name with the EPO.
1.1	2013/09	New service in REST version 1.2 for image retrieval.
1.0	2013/02	Document creation.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PUBLICATION SERVER

According to the European Patent Convention, the European Patent Office has the legal obligation to publish the patent applications it receives (A-documents) and the patents it grants (B-documents). The European publication server (EPS) (<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/>) has been the sole legally authoritative publication medium for European A and B documents since 1 April 2005.

1.2. WHAT ARE REST SERVICES

REST defines a set of architectural principles by which you can design web services that focus on a system's resources, including how resource states are addressed and transferred over HTTP by a wide range of clients written in different languages. If measured by the number of web services that use it, REST has emerged in the last few years alone as a predominant web service design model. In fact, REST has had such a large impact on the web that it has mostly displaced SOAP- and WSDL-based interface design because it's a considerably simpler style to use.

1.3. REST SERVICES IN THE EUROPEAN PUBLICATION SERVER

The EPS REST API enables access to XML, HTML, TIFF images, and PDF/A of European A and B publications.

The fair-use policy limits a given IP address to 4GB of download in any sliding window of 7 days.

1.4. CONTACT POINT

For all matters relating to the European publication server and its REST services please contact patentinformation@epo.org.

2. ACCESS TO THE REST SERVICE

The REST services are available at the following URLs:

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest> : shows the list of versions available.

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2> : shows the list of services supported by version 1.2.

Version 1.0 and 1.1 and still supported.

3. LIST OF EPS REST SERVICES

3.1. RETRIEVAL OF PUBLICATION DATES

Description:

This service returns the list of all publication dates available in the EPS database.

URL template:

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/publication-dates>

Request example:

GET <https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/publication-dates>

Response example:

```
<html>
...
<body>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/publication-dates/20130904/patents">2013/09/04</a>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/publication-dates/20130911/patents">2013/09/11</a>
...
</body>
</html>
```

3.2. RETRIEVAL OF WEEKLY PATENTS LIST

Description:

This service returns the list of patents being published at a given publication date.

URL template:

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/publication-dates/{publicationDate}/patents>

Format of {publicationDate} is YYYYMMDD. Example: 20130904

Request example:

GET <https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/publication-dates/20130904/patents>

Response example:

```
<html
...
<body>
<a href="https://.../publication-dates/20130904/patents/EP1004359NWB1">EP1004359NWB1</a>
<a href="https://.../publication-dates/20130904/patents/EP1026129NWB1">EP1026129NWB1</a>
...
</body>
</html>
```

3.3. RETRIEVAL OF DOCUMENT FORMATS

Description:

This service retrieves the list of available formats for a given document.

Formats available are:

- XML
- HTML (transformation on-the-fly of the XML)
- PDF
- ZIP (including XML, PDF, and drawings in TIFF format)

Note that the availability of data in a given format may vary depending on the publication date.

URL template:

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/patents/{patentNumber}>

Format of {patentNumber} is country-code + number + correction-code + kind-code

Example: EP1004359NWB1

Request example:

GET <https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/patents/EP1004359NWB1>

Response example:

```
<html>
<body>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/patents/EP1004359NWB1/document.xml">XML</a>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/patents/EP1004359NWB1/document.html">HTML</a>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/patents/EP1004359NWB1/document.pdf">PDF</a>
<a href="https://data.epo.org/.../v1.2/patents/EP1004359NWB1/document.zip">ZIP</a>
</body>
</html>
```

3.4. RETRIEVAL OF RAW DATA

Description:

This service provides access to data in different ways depending on user agent registration (see also section 4):

- For machine access with registered user-agent: raw XML, HTML, PDF, and ZIP are retrievable.
- For machine access with unregistered user-agent, or human access:
 - raw XML and ZIP are retrievable.
 - HTML and PDF are retrievable as displayed in the publication server user interface.

URL template:

<https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/patents/{patentNumber}/document.{format}>

Format of {patentNumber}: country-code + number + correction-code + kind-code

Example: EP0729353NWB2

{format} is the preferred download format (xml or html or pdf or zip) - see also section 3.3.

Request example:

GET <https://data.epo.org/publication-server/rest/v1.2/patents/EP0729353NWB2/document.xml>

Response example:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE ep-patent-document PUBLIC "-//EPO//EP PATENT DOCUMENT 1.4//EN" "ep-patent-
document-v1-4.dtd">
<ep-patent-document id="EP95901961B2" file="EP95901961NWB2.xml" lang="en" country="EP" doc-
number="0729353" kind="B2" date-publ="20120912" status="n" dtd-version="ep-patent-document-v1-
4">
<SDOBI lang="en"><B000><eptags>
...
</ep-patent-document
```


4. USER AGENT

EP data can be accessed in two ways depending on user agent registration:

- For machine access with registered user-agent: raw XML, HTML, PDF, and ZIP are retrievable.
- For machine access with unregistered user-agent, or human access:
 - raw XML and ZIP are retrievable.
 - HTML and PDF are retrievable as displayed in the publication server user interface.

Registration in this context means, for example in the case of a company myCompany, the EPO would include "myCompanyBot" in the configuration file of the publication server web application to enable direct access to raw data. On the client side myCompany would have to add "myCompanyBot" in the field user-agent of HTTP request headers.

The name of the user-agent may be sent to the EPO in an email at patentinformation@epo.org.