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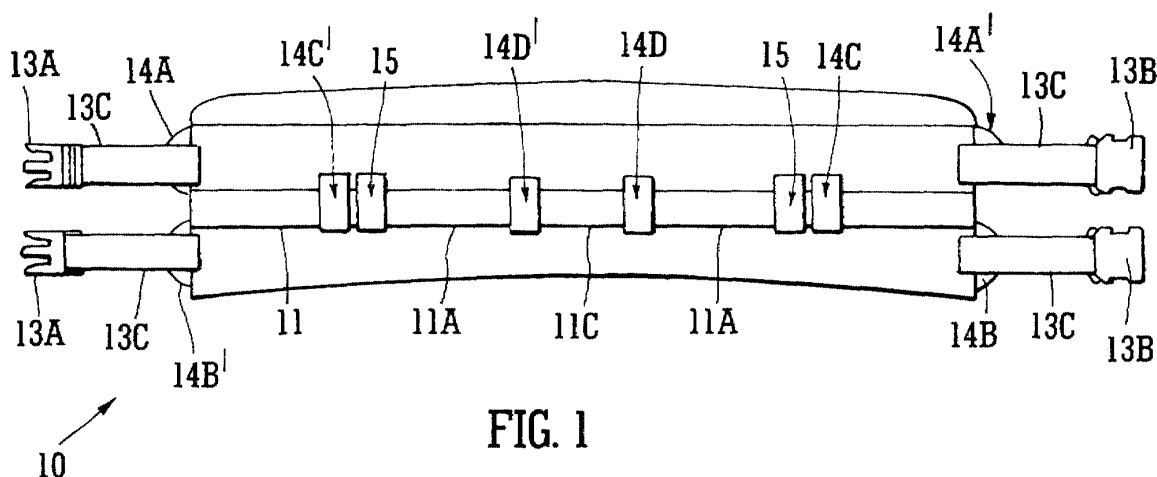
(54) **A lifting and supporting aid**

(57) The present invention provides a belt (10) that, in use, is attachable around the midriff of a person's body and can be used as an aid to lift or support the person, the belt (10) including:

fastening means (13) that releasably fasten the belt (10) around the person's midriff;  
 handle means (11A, 11B) that when gripped by a third party can aid with the lifting and support of the person;  
 means (14A, 14B, 14C, 14D; 14A', 14B', 14C', 14D')

for receiving at least one first strap (30, 31) member such that the belt can be converted into a harness which is connectable to a first lifting or support apparatus (40) that can lift or support the person from above; and

connecting means (15) that, in use, are connectable to a support member that can support a further portion of the person's body and/or to at least one second strap member which is attachable to a second lifting or support apparatus that can lift or support the person from the side.



**FIG. 1**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 8997

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>8 July 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Godot, T</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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08-07-2002

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