



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
23.04.2008 Bulletin 2008/17

(51) Int Cl.:
A24B 3/00 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
11.01.2006 Bulletin 2006/02

(21) Application number: **05105120.9**

(22) Date of filing: **10.06.2005**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR LV MK YU

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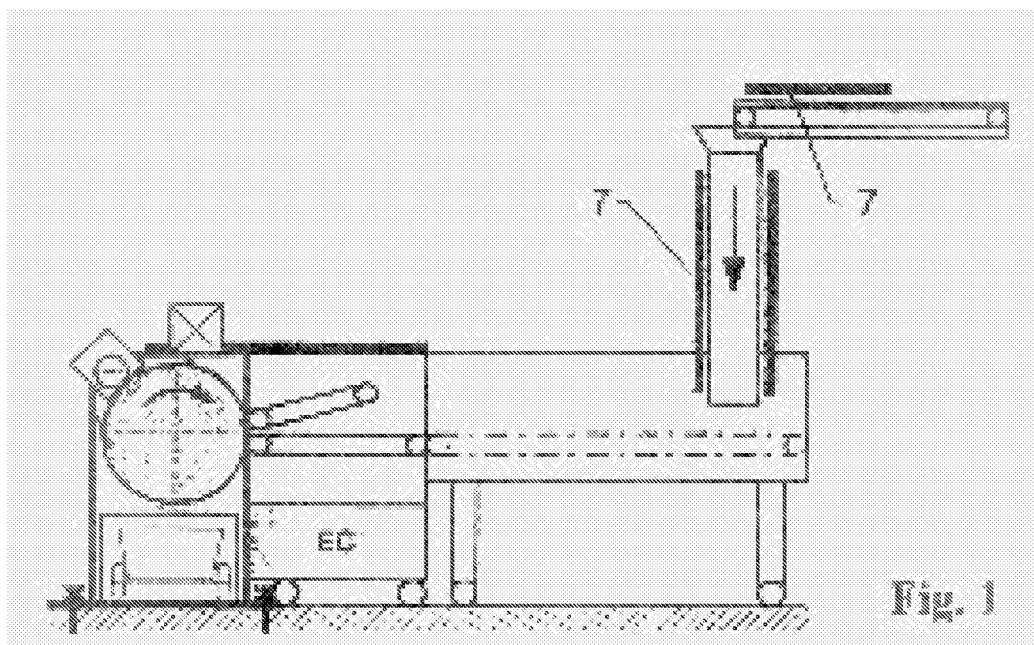
(30) Priority: **14.06.2004 PL 36849804**

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(54) **Method and device for processing organic plant material, particularly tobacco**

(57) The invention relates to a method and a device for processing organic plant material, particularly tobacco. The method is based on feeding the material onto a compacting feeder for compaction of the discharged material, and then cutting/comminuting it. The method according to the invention is characterized in that before the cutting/comminuting step heat energy is delivered and the stream of the material is heated homogeneously,

preferably along at least a portion of the path of the conveyed material, particularly just before feeding the material to the cutting/comminuting zone, to a temperature from ambient to 99°C, preferably from 35°C to 80°C, and most preferably from 40°C to 70°C. The heating is carried out for a period of time in which all layers of the cross-section of the material stream reach the same temperature and, preferably, the same level of elasticity.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 10 5120

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Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 March 2008	Examiner Pille, Stefaan
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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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