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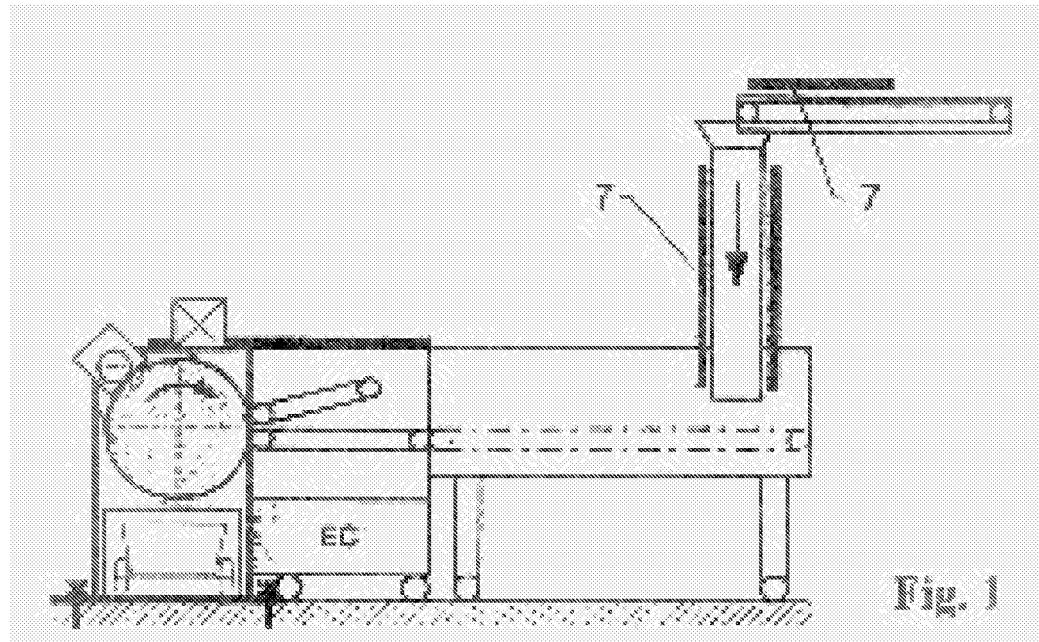
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(54) Method and device for processing organic plant material, particularly tobacco

(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/communuting it. The method according to the invention is characterized in that before the cutting/communuting 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/communuting 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.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
2	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	12 March 2008	Pille, Stefaan
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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