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(54) **Apparatus and method for the handling of plates**

(57) The invention concerns an apparatus (1) and a method for the handling of plates or sheets (2) on a surface (3). The apparatus includes a moveable loading platform (6) for the plates, which platform is moveable by driving means (8) for the plates. The platform is carried by a vertical suspension beam (5). Upon the suspension beam (5) a first carrying arm (16) is mounted perpendicularly to the beam. The said arm (16) is surrounded by

an element (26) and has a fixed connection to the loading platform (6). First control means (22) allow the required rotation at an angle A of the element (26) with the loading platform (6) around the first carrying arm. The suspension beam has a second carrying arm (17) mounted crosswise to this beam (5). Its free top end (19) can be connected to a hook (20) of a hoist cable (4) as part of a hoisting device.

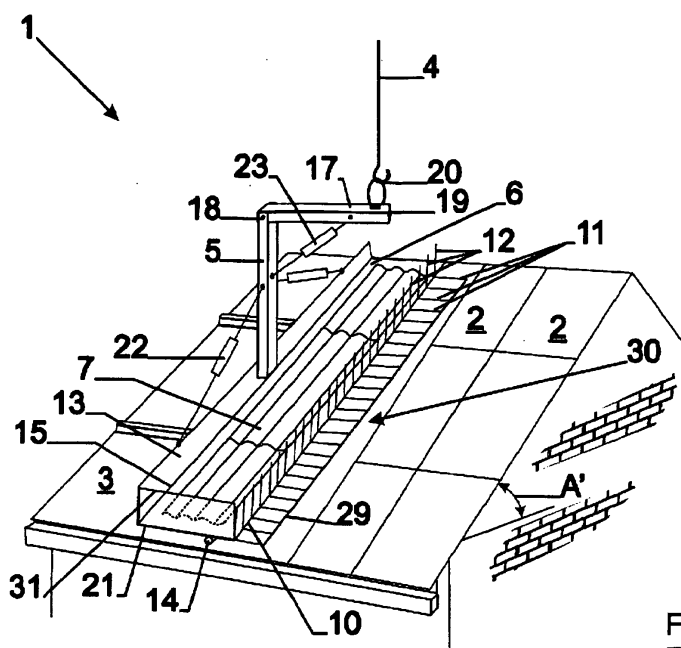


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 00 0776

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 9 December 2011	Examiner Giannakou, Evangelia
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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EP 11 00 0776

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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