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The EPO's income since 1990

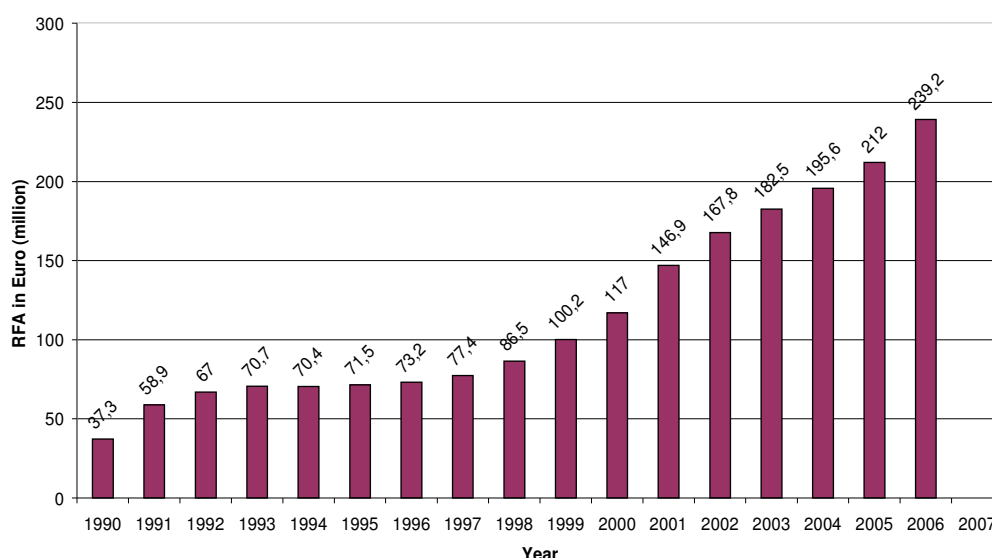
The European Patent Office (EPO) is self-financing thanks to its fee income. The Office is fully financially independent of the EU. The EPO has a budget of over one billion Euro. Both the number of patent applications and the fee income have increased continuously over the past years. As far as the fee income is concerned one differentiates between **renewal fees for applications (Table 1)** - for a patent application still in the examination process, and **renewal fees for granted patents (Table 2)** - for a granted patent. Table 3 shows the total income of the EPO since 1990.

Income which appears only in the "Notes" of the IFRS Financial Statement of the EPO

Already at the beginning of 2008 the expected income from annual fees for granted patents for the coming years was recorded: €4.6 billion - half of which, €2.3 billion will go to the national patent offices. This value is calculated at the end of 2007 on the basis of EPO internal figures and statistics.

Table 1: Renewal Fees for Applications, RFA

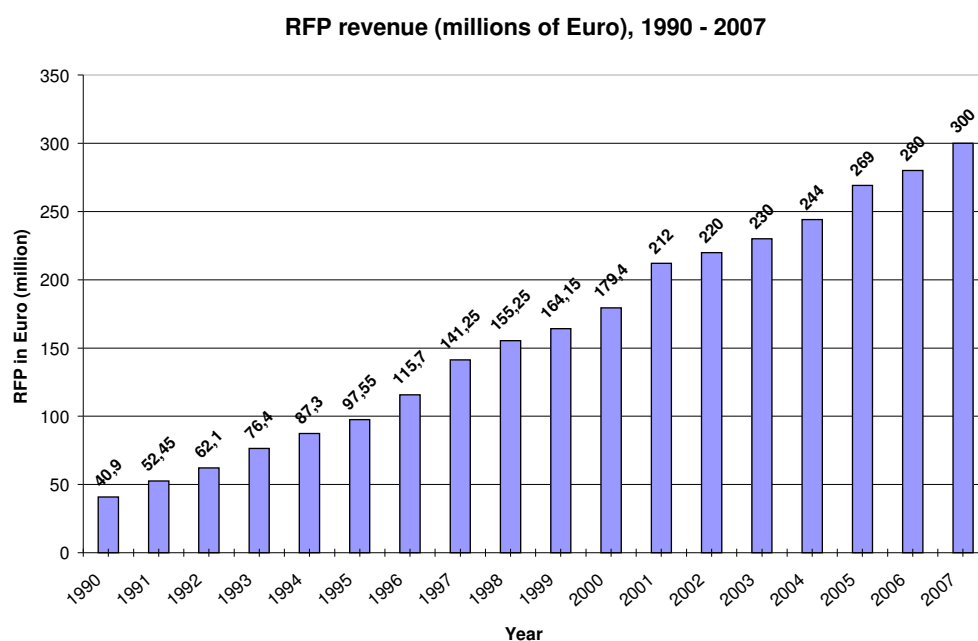
RFA (million of Euro), 1990 - 2006



Renewal Fees for Applications, RFA

As of the third year after the filing date, patent applicants pay renewal fees for applications (RFA) **directly to the EPO**. These fees are payable as long as the patent application is being examined. In the event that a patent is been granted on the basis of such an application, annual fees for the **granted** patent are payable..

Table 2: Renewal Fees for Granted Patents (RFP)



Renewal Fees for Granted Patents (RFP)

Also known as: Annual Fees

Once a patent has been granted, the patent holders pay - up to a maximum of 20 years - the so-called renewal fees for granted patents (RFP) to the national patent offices.

Payment of these fees ensures that the patent is renewed from year to year. Generally, 50% of these fees are kept by the national offices and 50% are paid back to the EPO.

Table 3: The fee income of the EPO from 1990 bis 2006:

RFA + RFP in millions of Euro, 1990 - 2006

