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**D E C I S I O N**  
**of 17 March 2003**

**Case Number:** T 0693/02 - 3.2.1

**Application Number:** 94923381.1

**Publication Number:** 0707696

**IPC:** F16L 39/02, F16L 37/26

**Language of the proceedings:** EN

**Title of invention:**  
Separable connector for pressure fluid components

**Patentee:**  
PARKER-HANNIFIN CORPORATION

**Opponent:**  
Armaturen- und Autogengerätefabrik Ewo Hermann Holzapfel KG

**Headword:**  
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**Relevant legal provisions:**  
EPC Art. 108  
EPC R. 65(1)

**Keyword:**  
"Missing Statement of Grounds"

**Decisions cited:**  
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**Catchword:**  
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Case Number: T 0693/02 - 3.2.1

**D E C I S I O N**  
of the Technical Board of Appeal 3.2.1  
of 17 March 2003

**Appellant:** PARKER-HANNIFIN CORPORATION  
(Proprietor of the patent) 6035 Parkland Boulevard  
Cleveland  
Ohio 44124-4141 (US)

**Representative:** Andrae, Steffen, Dr.  
Andrae Flach Haug  
Balanstrasse 55  
D-81541 München (DE)

**Respondent:** Armaturen- und Autogengerätefabrik Ewo  
(Opponent) Hermann Holzapfel KG  
Hessbrühlstr. 45-47  
D-70565 Stuttgart (DE)

**Representative:** Karrais, Martin  
Hoeger, Stellrecht & Partner  
Uhlandstrasse 14 c  
D-70182 Stuttgart (DE)

**Decision under appeal:** Interlocutory decision of the Opposition Division  
of the European Patent Office posted 3 May 2002  
concerning maintenance of European patent  
No. 0 707 686 in amended form.

**Composition of the Board:**

**Chairman:** S. Crane  
**Members:** M. Ceyte  
G. Weiss

## **Summary of Facts and Submissions**

- I. In its interlocutory decision posted on 3 May 2002 the opposition division maintained the European patent No. 0 707 696 in amended form.
- II. The appellant (patent proprietor) appealed against the decision of the opposition division on 3 July 2002. The appeal fee was paid on the same day. No statement of grounds was filed. The notice of appeal contains nothing that could be regarded as a statement of grounds pursuant to Article 108 EPC.
- III. By a communication dated 18 October 2002 and sent by registered post, the registry of the Board informed the appellant that no statement of grounds has been filed and that the appeal could be expected to be rejected as inadmissible. The appellant was invited to file observations within two months.
- IV. The appellant filed no observations in response to said communication.

## **Reasons for the Decision**

As no written statement setting out the grounds of appeal has been filed, the appeal has to be rejected as inadmissible (Article 108 EPC, second sentence, in conjunction with Rule 65(1) EPC).

**Order**

**For these reasons it is decided that:**

The appeal is rejected as inadmissible.

The Registrar:

The Chairman:

S. Fabiani

S. Crane