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**D E C I S I O N**  
**of 29 July 2004**

**Case Number:** T 0396/04 - 3.3.7

**Application Number:** 96306229.4

**Publication Number:** 0765685

**IPC:** B01J 31/08

**Language of the proceedings:** EN

**Title of invention:**

Method for preparing ion-exchange resin for use as a catalyst  
in the synthesis of bisphenols

**Applicant:**

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

**Opponent:**

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**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 0396/04 - 3.3.7

**D E C I S I O N**  
of the Technical Board of Appeal 3.3.7  
of 29 July 2004

**Appellant:** GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY  
1 River Road  
Schenectady, NY 12345 (US)

**Representative:** Szary, Anne Catherine, Dr.  
London Patent Operation  
General Electric International, Inc.  
15 John Adam Street  
London WC2N 6LU (GB)

**Decision under appeal:** Decision of the Examining Division of the  
European Patent Office posted 2 October 2003  
refusing European application No. 96306229.4  
pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

**Composition of the Board:**

**Chairman:** R. E. Teschemacher  
**Members:** B. L. ter Laan  
G. Santavicca

## Summary of Facts and Submissions

- I. The appeal contests the decision of the Examining Division of the European Patent Office posted on 2 October 2003 refusing European patent application No. 96 306 229.4 pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

The applicant (appellant) filed a notice of appeal on 4 December 2003 and paid the fee for appeal 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.

- II. By a communication dated 6 May 2004, sent by registered letter with advice of delivery, the Registry of the Board informed the appellant that no statement of grounds had been filed and that the appeal could be expected to be rejected as inadmissible.

The appellant was informed about the possibility of filing a request for re-establishment of rights under Article 122 EPC and was invited to file observations within two months.

- III. No answer was received within the given time limit to the Registry's communication.

- IV. By letter dated 23 July 2004, the request for oral proceedings was withdrawn.

## **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 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:

C. Eickhoff

R. Teschemacher