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## Validation of European patents in Morocco

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Morocco will become the first non-European country in which a validation agreement with the EPO enters into force, and is also the first country in Africa in which a European patent can be validated. The agreement does not mean, however, that Morocco will become a member state of the EPO.

Entry into force of the validation agreement follows recent intellectual property legislation passed in Morocco during

December 2014, which outlines the country's provisions on patents, designs and trade marks. In particular, substantive examination is now required for trade marks, patent and design applications.

The possibility to validate a European patent in Morocco is hoped to provide economic benefits to the growing economy in the African state, and also to increase the attractiveness of Morocco to foreign investors.

Although not yet in force, a validation agreement has also been entered into by the EPO with Tunisia in July 2014 (as reported in an earlier publication – see [European patent validation agreement signed with Tunisia](#)), so Morocco's pioneering step is likely to be followed by another African nation in the near future.

### Contact

For more information please contact **Greg Dykes** via email at [grd@aathornton.com](mailto:grd@aathornton.com) or your usual A.A. Thornton & Co. advisor.

For general information please visit: [www.aathornton.com](http://www.aathornton.com)

### Partners

**Vanessa Lawrence**  
[vabl@aathornton.com](mailto:vabl@aathornton.com)

**Ian Gill**  
[isg@aathornton.com](mailto:isg@aathornton.com)

**Martin Hedges**  
[mnh@aathornton.com](mailto:mnh@aathornton.com)

**Craig Turner**  
[crt@aathornton.com](mailto:crt@aathornton.com)

**Rachel Havard**  
[rsh@aathornton.com](mailto:rsh@aathornton.com)

**Adrian Bennett**  
[arb@aathornton.com](mailto:arb@aathornton.com)

**Mike Jennings**  
[mjj@aathornton.com](mailto:mjj@aathornton.com)

**Emily Cottrill**  
[eehc@aathornton.com](mailto:eehc@aathornton.com)

**Lawrence King**  
[llk@aathornton.com](mailto:llk@aathornton.com)

**Nick South**  
[ngs@aathornton.com](mailto:ngs@aathornton.com)

**Heather Donald**  
[hrd@aathornton.com](mailto:hrd@aathornton.com)

**Sarah Darby**  
[smd@aathornton.com](mailto:smd@aathornton.com)

### Associates