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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: CURTAIN WALL

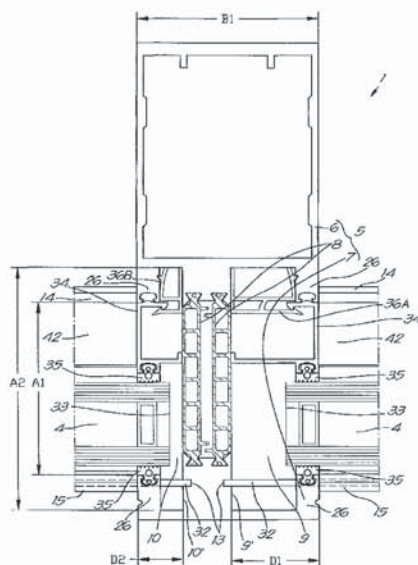


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: Curtain wall (1) comprising mullion profiles (5), transom profiles (14) and panels (4), wherein the mullion profiles (5) extend vertically, with the transom profiles (14) being fixed at right angles to the mullion profiles (5), wherein the transom profiles (14) and the profile profiles (5) define rectangular openings, wherein the panels (4) are placed in said openings to close these openings, characterized in that the (panels (4) are secured by means of first glazing beads (34), that are attached to a said mullion profile (5) by means of first attachment aids (36), wherein the first attachment aids (36) and said mullion profiles (5) are designed to attach the first attachment aids (36) to a said mullion profile (5), wherein the first attachment aids (36) and the first glazing beads (34) are designed to snap the first glazing beads (34) onto the first attachment aids (36).

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 42420-WO-U	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/BE2017/000025	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02.05.2017	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24.05.2016	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. E04B2/96			
Applicant Claeys, Stephanie Catharina R.			
1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. 3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. ☒ (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>9</u> sheets, as follows: ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). ☐ sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2). ☐ superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b)). b. ☐ (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3ter of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).			
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: ☒ Box No. I Basis of the report ☐ Box No. II Priority ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand 05.01.2018		Date of completion of this report 04.05.2018	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized officer Galanti, Flavio Telephone No. +31 70 340-2026	



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/BE2017/000025

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- ☐ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☒ a translation of the international application into English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☒ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a) and (b))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-15 filed with the letter of 05-01-2018

Drawings, Sheets

1/13-13/13 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rules 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. ☐ This report has been established:
- ☐ taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).
 - ☐ without taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91(Rules 66.4bis and 70.2(e)).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/BE2017/000025

6. ☒ With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1 *ter* and 70.2(f)):
- ☒ A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on 18.04.2018 (all discovered documents are listed in the Supplemental Box Relating to Top-up Search).
 - ☐ Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.
 - ☐ No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.
7. ☐ Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded".

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-15</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-15</u>
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-15</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D4 JP S57 190086 U (-) 2 December 1982

2 D4 is regarded as being the prior art closest to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (see Figs. 1-3):

A curtain wall (1) comprising one or more mullion profiles (2, 3), one or more transom profiles (implicit) and one or more panels (a, a'), wherein the one or more mullion profiles (2, 3) extend vertically, wherein the one or more transom profiles are attached at right angles to the one or more mullion profiles (2, 3), wherein the one or more transom profiles and the one or more mullion profiles define rectangular openings, wherein the one or more panels are placed in said openings to close these openings, wherein the panels (a, a') are fitted with their side edges in a rabbet of the mullion profiles (2, 3) and of the transom profiles with the aid of seals (34, 35), whereby the rabbets in the mullions (2, 3) have a fixed indivisible width and that the one or more panels (a, a') are secured along the inside of the curtain wall (1) in the mullion profiles (2, 3) by means of first glazing beads (36) that are made from a rigid material and are provided with an aforementioned seal (34) and are attached to a said mullion profile (2, 3) by means of first attachment aids (see protruding portion of mullion 2 forming groove 24), wherein the first attachment aids (24) are attached to the mullions (2, 3), the first attachment aids (24) and the one or more of the said mullion profiles (2, 3) being designed in such a way that the first attachment aids (24) can be attached to a said mullion profile (2, 3), and wherein the glazing beads (36) are snapped onto the first attachment aids (24).

2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known curtain wall in that (reference signs according to present application)

- the first attachment aids (36) and the first glazing beads (34) are designed in such a way that the first glazing beads (34) can be snapped onto the first attachment aids (36) in a direction parallel to the plane of the respective panel (4)

and is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 2.2 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as to provide a simpler and safer way of fixing the panels to the curtain wall framework.
- 2.3 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The proposed solution allows the installation of the panels from the inside. In the curtain wall of D4, it would not seem possible to attach the glazing bead (36) in a direction parallel to the plane of the panel because of the shape of the protruding latching portion (37) on the glazing bead (37). The configuration of mullion and glazing bead in the known curtain wall therefore suggests that it is only possible to attach the glazing bead prior to installing the panels. A separate attachment aid as suggested in the present application, furthermore, allows the attachment of the glazing bead in a direction parallel to the plane of the panel without having to modify the profile of the mullion.

- 3 Claims 2-15 are dependent on one or more independent claims whose subject-matter is considered as being new and inventive, as discussed above, and as such said dependent claims also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

International patent application nr. PCT/BE2017/000025,
in the name of CLAEYS Stephanie Catharina R., CLAEYS
Laurens Leonard J. and CLAEYS Nausikaä Els P.

Reply to the opinion of the search report dated October
24, 2017.

5

According to the examiner's opinion, claim 1 is not new
in view of D2 (US 2003/226324).

10

We disagree with this opinion.

Claim 1 differs from the disclosure of D2 at least in
the fact that D2 does not comprise first glazing beads
15 which are made from a rigid material, for example from
metal.

Indeed, the retainers 250, 251 are mistakenly awarded by
the examiner to have a dual function as being a seal and
20 as being a glazing bead at the same time. This is not
possible as a seal is supposed to be made of a flexible
material, whilst a blazing bead is made of a rigid
material. Furthermore, a seal is supposed to stretch
over the entire circumference of the panels, whereas a
25 glazing bead can be of a shorter length and be mounted
spaced apart from another glazing bead at the
circumference of the glazing.

In fact, in D2 a distinction is made between the
30 retainers 250 and 251 which are meant for frictionally
and resiliently retaining the panels 260 and 261 (last

sentence of §[0039] and §[0062]) and beads 110 to facilitate the assembly of interior trim 60 on mullion 31. This suggests that the retainers 250 and 251 in D2 have to be of a resilient material and are therefore
5 different from the beads of rigid material disclosed in the present application.

Moreover, neither the retainers 250 and 251, nor the beads 110 can be put in place in a direction parallel to
10 the plane of the glass panels without breaking or damaging the panels if they would be made of a rigid material.

Also the beads 110 in D2 are not glazing beads as defined
15 at page 20, third paragraph of the present application as being:

"profiles made out of a rigid material and which serve, with the aid of a gasket, to accommodate the play between the thickness of
20 the panels and the width A1 of the rabbet or rather: to accommodate the differences in thickness between thicker or thinner panels. These glazing beads have a width that has to be adjusted to the thickness of the panels that
25 are to be installed."

As a matter of fact, the adapters 210 described in §[0066] and in figure 12 of D2 fulfill the above definition of a glazing bead of the present application.

It is clear that D2 distinguishes between the adapters 210 (corresponding to the glazing beads of the present application) and the retainers 250, 251, which therefore have a different function as that of the glazing beads
5 of the present application.

Said adapters 210 of D2 (corresponding to the glazing beads of the present application) cannot be put in place in a direction parallel to the plane of the glass panels.
10

Moreover, as already explained in the introduction of the present application at the last paragraph of page 2 and the first two paragraphs of page 3, D2 describes a curtain wall system claiming to be suitable for
15 installing and replacing the panels both from the outside and from the inside of the curtain wall if necessary. However, it is not explained how this could be realised from the inside. In fact, installing the panels 261 from the inside is not possible as the beads 270 in figures
20 12 to 14 of D2 can only be fixed to the rails 50 from the outside by screws 58 with interlocking the glass panels.

If said beads 270 would be mounted before the glass
25 panels 261 would be in place, then they would prevent the glass panels 261 from being rotated in place from the inside. In reality the panels 261 have to be installed first before the beads 270 are fixed, after which the beads 270 can be fixed to the rails 50 by
30 screwing them from the outside.

In the present application, the glass panels can be installed completely from the inside as is explained in the present application in the passage beginning at page 26, line 11 to page 28, line 11 and as illustrated in the figures 13 to 16, although an installation from the outside is not excluded.

Regarding the observation 1 concerning a non clarity objection of claim 1, we hereby inclose a set of amended claims, both as a clean copy and with amendments shown, taking into consideration the suggestions made by the examiner.

Regarding observation 2 that the expression "are designed to" is merely a statement of the underlying problem is not correct, the problem being how to mount a glass panel in a curtain wall from the inside, the solution being that the glazing beads are designed to snap in place in a direction parallel to the plane of the panel already mounted.

In view of the above we respectfully request reconsideration of the set of amended claims.

Claims.

1.- A curtain wall (1) comprising one or more mullion
5 profiles (5), one or more transom profiles (14) and one
or more panels (4), wherein the one or more mullion
profiles (5) extend vertically, wherein the one or more
transom profiles (14) are attached at right angles to
10 the one or more mullion profiles (5), wherein the one or
more transom profiles (14) and the one or more mullion
profiles (5) define rectangular openings, wherein the
one or more panels are placed in said openings to close
these openings, wherein the panels (4) are fitted with
15 their side edges (33,39,44) in a rabbet (11, 37) of the
mullion profiles (5) and of the transom profiles (14)
with the aid of seals (35), characterized in that the
rabbets (11) in the mullions (5) have a fixed indivisible
width (A1) and that the one or more panels (4) are
20 secured along the inside of the curtain wall (1) in the
mullion profiles (5) by means of first glazing beads
(34) that are made from a rigid material and are provided
with an aforementioned seal and are attached to a said
mullion profile (5) by means of first attachment aids
(36), wherein the first attachment aids (36) are attached
25 to the mullions, the first attachment aids (36) and the
one or more of the said mullion profiles (5) being
designed in such a way that the first attachment aids
(36) can be attached to a said mullion profile (5),
wherein the glazing beads (34) are snapped onto the first
30 attachment aids (36), the first attachment aids (36) and
the first glazing beads (34) being designed in such a

way that the first glazing beads (34) can be snapped onto the first attachment aids (36) in a direction parallel to the plane of the respective panel (4).

5 2.- Curtain wall according to claim 1, characterized in that the first attachment aids (36) and the first glazing beads (34) are designed to snap the first glazing beads (34) together with the seals (35) onto the first attachment aids (36) in a direction parallel to the plane
10 of the respective panel (4).

3.- Curtain wall according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the first attachment aids (36) and the one or more aforementioned mullion profiles (5) are designed to
15 snap the first attachment aids (36) onto a said mullion profile (5).

4.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first glazing beads
20 (34) are made of aluminium.

5.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first attachment aids (36) are made of plastic.
25

6.- Curtain wall according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first attachment aids (36) and the one or more of the said mullion profiles (5) are designed to snap the first attachment aids (36)
30 to a said mullion profile (5) in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the respective panel (4),

wherein the first attachment aids (36) and the first glazing beads (34) are designed to snap the first glazing beads (34) onto the first attachment aids (36) in a direction parallel to the plane of the respective panel (4).

7.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first attachment aids (36) are profiles that extend over only a portion of the length of the first glazing beads (34).

8.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first glazing beads (34) are each secured to a mullion profile (5) by at least two first attachment aids (36) that are spaced apart.

9.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the one or more of the said mullion profiles (5) and the first glazing beads (34) are arranged such that the first glazing beads (34) rest against the style profile (5), with their side facing away from the panel (4) in question.

10.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the one or more panels are glass panels (4).

11.- Curtain wall according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first glazing beads

(34) are fixed to mullion profiles (5) only by means of first attachment aids (36).

12.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding
5 claims, characterized in that the one or more panels (4) are fixed by means of second glazing beads (42) that are attached to a said transom profile (14) by means of second attachment aids (43), wherein the second attachment aids (43) and the one or more of said transom
10 profiles (14) are adapted to attach the second attachment aids (43) to a said transom profile (14), wherein the second attachment aids (43) and the second glazing beads (42) are designed to snap the second glazing beads (42) to the second attachment aids (43).

15

13.- Curtain wall according to claims 9 to 12, characterized in that the second glazing beads (42) are fixed to transom profiles (14) only by means of second attachment aids (43).

20

14.- Curtain wall according to claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the second attachment aids (43) are profiles that extend over only a portion of the length of the second glazing beads (42) and that the
25 second glazing beads (42) are each attached to a transom profile (42), by at least two second attachment aids (43) that are spaced apart.

15.- Curtain wall according to one of the preceding
30 claims, characterized in that the transom profiles are Z-profiles with a first vertical leg (16) directing

upward and located on the inside of the transom profile (14) and a second vertical leg (17) directing downward and located on the outside of the transom profile (14) and a horizontal section (18) between the first and
5 second leg.

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

To:

SCHACHT, Benny
Mohawk International Services BVBA
Ooigemstraat 3
8710 Wielsbeke
BELGIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 16 November 2018 (16.11.2018)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference P1397PC01	
International application No. PCT/BE2017/000025	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 May 2017 (02.05.2017)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:		
☒ the applicant	☐ the inventor	☐ the agent
☐ the common representative		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Laurens Leonard J. Theo De Belderlaan 2 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
☐ the person	☐ the name	☒ the address
☐ the nationality		
☐ the residence		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Laurens Leonard J. Theo De Belderlaan 4 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address ☐ Notifications by e-mail authorized	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
☐ the receiving Office	☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority	
☐ the International Searching Authority	☐ the designated Offices concerned	
☐ the Authority(ies) specified for supplementary search	☒ the elected Offices concerned	
	☐ other:	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Blanc Veronique
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	e-mail pct.team5@wipo.int Telephone No. +41 22 338 74 05

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
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SCHACHT, Benny
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8710 Wielsbeke
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☒ the applicant ☐ the inventor ☐ the agent ☐ the common representative		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Stephanie Catharina R. Theo De Belderlaan 2 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
☐ the person ☐ the name ☒ the address ☐ the nationality ☐ the residence		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Stephanie Catharina R. Theo De Belderlaan 4 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address ☐ Notifications by e-mail authorized	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
☐ the receiving Office ☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority ☐ the International Searching Authority ☐ the designated Offices concerned ☐ the Authority(ies) specified for supplementary search ☒ the elected Offices concerned ☐ other:		

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer Blanc Veronique e-mail pct.team5@wipo.int Telephone No. +41 22 338 74 05
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☒ the applicant	☐ the inventor	☐ the agent
☐ the common representative		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Nausikaä Els P. Theo De Belderlaan 2 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
☐ the person	☐ the name	☒ the address
☐ the nationality		
☐ the residence		
Name and Address CLAEYS, Nausikaä Els P. Theo De Belderlaan 4 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality BE	State of Residence BE
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address ☐ Notifications by e-mail authorized	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
☐ the receiving Office	☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority	
☐ the International Searching Authority	☐ the designated Offices concerned	
☐ the Authority(ies) specified for supplementary search	☒ the elected Offices concerned	
	☐ other:	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Blanc Veronique e-mail pct.team5@wipo.int Telephone No. +41 22 338 74 05
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	

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PCTNOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
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BELGIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 16 November 2018 (16.11.2018)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference P1397PC01	
International application No. PCT/BE2017/000025	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 May 2017 (02.05.2017)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:		
☐ the applicant	☒ the inventor	☐ the agent
☐ the common representative		
Name and Address	State of Nationality	State of Residence
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
☒ the person	☐ the name	☐ the address
☐ the nationality	☐ the residence	
Name and Address CLAEYS, Eric Theo De Belderlaan 4 2240 Zandhoven Belgium	State of Nationality	State of Residence
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	E-mail address ☐ Notifications by e-mail authorized	
3. Further observations, if necessary: The person identified in Box 2 has been added as inventor only.		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
☐ the receiving Office	☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority	
☐ the International Searching Authority	☐ the designated Offices concerned	
☐ the Authority(ies) specified for supplementary search	☒ the elected Offices concerned	
	☐ other:	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Blanc Veronique
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