

The first examiner called Mr Sarturio on 08.06.2020. The following was discussed:

Although the technical effect (i.e. par. 0001: "to aid in removal of a prosthesis after used by a subject") associated with the prosthetic assembly of the invention is well understood by the first examiner, this effect is neither properly reflected by claims 1 and 9 by its technical means. With the current claims on file, novelty objection is maintained.

If this effect was properly clarified and specified, e.g. by using wording as disclosed in par. 0046 "when a removal torque is applied to the screw in the direction of the arrow D, the gradual return of the screw causes the interference member 50 to reach the permitted limit of longitudinal motion between screw 60 and prosthetic component 20. This limit occurs when *the surface 61 of the smaller diameter portion 62 of the body of the retention screw 60 abuts the lower surface 51 of the interference member 50.* From this point, stage C (Fig. 5C), *part of the torque which is applied to the screw 60, is transmitted to the prosthetic component 20 as a force in the pop-out direction of the prosthetic component"*, patentable sub-matter could be reached.

It is noted that this suggestion is only for assisting the applicant in his decision on how to proceed. It in no way precludes consideration of alternative solutions submitted by the applicant. The responsibility for determining the text of the application (Article 113(2) EPC) and in particular for defining the subject-matter for which protection is sought remains with the applicant.

US6663388 B1, cited by Applicant, seems to be closest prior art as it discloses both an interference component and the technical effect (however achieved by the the screw head touching the shoulder surface 244)

Mr Satorio explained that he needs time to discuss the matter with Mr Saez who is in charge of this file.

The first examiner confirmed that he can be contacted by phone (+49 (0)89 2399 7396), in case Mr Saez wants to discuss details of an amended claims 1 and 9.