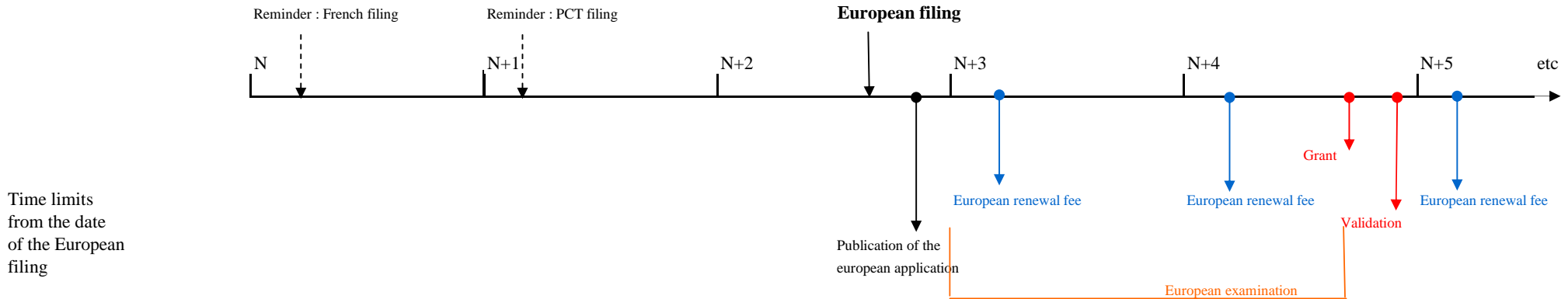


IN CASE OF AN EUROPEAN FILING FOLLOWING A PCT FILING



EPO filing : Launching the European phase has to be performed 31 months at the latest from the priority date.
However a European filing can be performed under priority of a French filing.

2 to 3 months **Publication of the filing** : the application is made available to the public on data bases.

Grant : The time limit for grant varies. It varies between 2 and 4 years.
For a period of time of 9 months, the patent may be opposed by a third party.

3 months after grant of the European patent **Validation** : Once the European patent is granted, one has to choose the EPO member states in which to extend the patent, that is to obtain a national patent.
The procedures have to be accomplished in the time limit of 3 months after grant of the European patent.
Thus, the European patent splits into several national patents, for which one will have to pay national fees and renewal fees according the selected countries.
If the original French filing was not much modified, it can be abandoned.