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(54) **Automatic electronic wood cutting/chopping machine**

(57) Automatic electronic wood cutting/chopping machine used to produce pieces or segments (49) of firewood from branchless trunks (12) and collected from a stacking zone, the machine including, in coordinated cooperation, a loading assembly (11) to automatically pick up the trunks (12) from the stacking zone and to deposit them on a lengthwise feed assembly (13) with a sliding channel (20), a cutting assembly (14) located to follow the lengthwise feed assembly (13) to divide the trunks (12) into sections of predetermined length, a gripper assembly (29) located in cooperation with the cutting assembly (14) to temporarily retain the trunks (12) during the cutting operation and to measure the

diameter of the trunks (12), a translation assembly (25) located immediately downstream of the cutting assembly (14) to translate the cut sections of trunk (12), a chopping assembly (15), coplanar and substantially adjacent to the feed assembly (13), to divide the cut sections into a defined number of pieces or segments (49) and a carrier assembly (16) located immediately downstream of the chopping assembly (15) to discharge and/or separate the pieces or segments (49) produced, the assemblies (11,13,14,15,16,25, 29) being governed by an electronic control and drive unit (26) associated at least with means to automatically determine the length of the trunks (12).

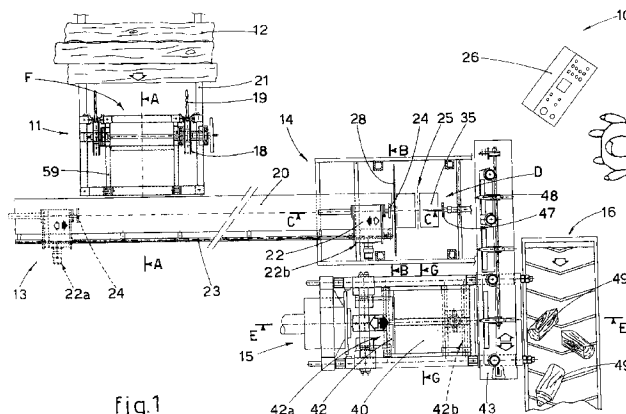


fig.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 March 1999	Examiner De Gussem, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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