Claims

1. Filter device (1) comprising a housing (2) with an end part (5) and a cylindrical side wall (7) and containing an axially arranged array of filter elements (3), an inlet (4) for supplying fluid to the filter elements and an outlet (12) for transporting filtered fluid from the housing, the side wall (7) of the filter device being provided with a cleaning duct (6) for supplying cleaning fluid to the filter elements (3) via the side wall (7), the cleaning duct (6) comprising a distal channel portion (15) having a relatively small diameter D1 and a proximal portion (16) adjacent the side wall (7) having a relatively large diameter D2, a number of partitions (21,22,23,24) extending in the proximal portion (16) from a position at or near the sidewall (7) towards the distal channel portion (15) at an angle (β) to a centre line (20) of the cleaning duct (6).

2. Filter device (1) according to claim 1, wherein the proximal channel portion (16) comprises a peripheral wall that is at an angle (α) with respect to the centre line (20) of between 10^0 and 70^0, preferably between 30^0 and 60^0, more preferably about 45^0.

3. Filter device (1) according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the angle (β) is less than 20^0, preferably less than 10^0, more preferably less than 8^0.

4. Filter device (1) according to any of claims 1-3, wherein a cross-section of the cleaning duct (16) near the sidewall (7) is rectangular, the duct having sidewalls (27,28) and transverse walls (25,26), wherein the partitions (21,22,23,24) bridge the distance between the sidewalls (27,28) and/or between the transverse walls (25,26).

5. Filter device (1) according to claims 1,2 or 3, the partitions being flat, plate-shaped elements arranged in a grid-shaped configuration.

6. Filter device (1) according to any of claims 3 or 4, the cross-section of the cleaning duct being of circular shape, the partitions being formed of coaxial conical members (36,37).

7. Filter device (1) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that inside the housing a cylindrical distributor element (60) is provided, comprising a perforated wall at a

distance from the cylindrical wall ~~(7)~~, an annular flow channel being defined between the distributor element and the wall.

8. Filter device ~~(1)~~ according to claim 7, a distance of the distributor element ~~(60)~~ from the cylindrical wall ~~(7)~~ decreasing when going from a position ~~(A)~~ on the annular wall near the cleaning duct ~~(6)~~ to a position ~~(B)~~ diametrically opposite the cleaning duct.

9. Filter device ~~(1)~~ according to claim 7 or 8, the distributor element comprising a perforated annular inner wall ~~(60)~~ having openings ~~(61)~~ distributed along its circumferential surface.