CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing a catalyst which comprises a carrier on which a metal is supported, said process comprising drying the carrier by contacting the carrier with a drying agent which comprises an organic carbonate resulting in a dried carrier; and impregnating the dried carrier with a solution wherein a compound containing the metal is dissolved in a solvent which is an organic carbonate or an alcohol.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic carbonate used as a drying agent is a compound of formula ROC(=O)OR', wherein R and R' may be the same or different and are each an alkyl or aryl group.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent used in the impregnation step is an organic carbonate.

4. The process according to claim 3, wherein the organic carbonate is a compound of formula ROC(=O)OR', wherein R and R' may be the same or different and are each an alkyl or aryl group.

5. The process according to claim 3, wherein the organic carbonate used in the drying step and the organic carbonate used in the impregnation step are the same.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound containing the metal used in the impregnation step is a compound which, in addition to the metal, contains one or more ligands, which may be the same or different and one or more of which ligands are selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, arylalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylaryloxy, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, hydroxide, carboxylate, carbonate and halide groups.

7. The process for preparing an aromatic carbonate, comprising reacting a dialkyl carbonate or an alkyl aryl carbonate with an aryl alcohol or an alkyl aryl carbonate, in the presence of a catalyst prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1, resulting in an aromatic carbonate which is an alkyl aryl carbonate or a diaryl carbonate.

8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the solvent used in the impregnation step of the catalyst preparation process is an organic carbonate.

9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the organic carbonate used in the drying step of the catalyst preparation process and the organic carbonate used in the impregnation step of the catalyst preparation process are the same, and wherein said organic carbonate is a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl aryl carbonate or a diaryl carbonate.

10. The process according to claim 7 wherein the organic carbonate used in the drying process is a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl aryl carbonate or a diaryl carbonate.

11. The process for making a polycarbonate, comprising reacting a dihydroxy aromatic compound with a diaryl carbonate prepared in accordance with the process of claim 7.