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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP96/05211 (22) International Filing Date: 22 November 1996 (22.11.96) (30) Priority Data: 95203226.6 23 November 1995 (23.11.95) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al. (71) Applicant (for all designated States except CA): SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V. [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The Hague (NL). (71) Applicant (for CA only): SHELL CANADA LIMITED [CA/CA]; 400 - 4th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H5 (CA). (72) Inventor: VAN KRUCHTEN, Eugene, Marie, Godfried, Andre; Badhuisweg 3, NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ALKYLENE GLYCOLS (57) Abstract <p>A process is disclosed for preparing an alkylene glycol by reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst comprising a polymeric organosiloxane ammonium salt having a silica-like skeleton and comprising units of general formula (I), wherein R¹ to R⁴, Y and x are as specified in claim 1. Preferred are the catalysts wherein the anion Y is selected from the group of carboxylates having from 1-20 carbon atoms, hydrogen carbonate, hydrogen sulphite, hydrogen phosphate and metalate. These catalysts exhibit an enhanced selectivity stability.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> $\left[\begin{array}{c} R^1 \\ \diagdown \\ N \\ \diagup \\ R^4 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{c} R^2 \\ \diagdown \\ N \\ \diagup \\ R^3 \end{array}]^{YX-}_x \quad (I)$ </div>		