

Method for producing 1,6-hexanediol and caprolactone

Abstract

- 5 The invention relates to a process for preparing 1,6-hexanediol and caprolactone, preferably with at least 99.5% purity, which are especially virtually free of 1,4-cyclohexanediols, from a carboxylic acid mixture which is obtained as a by-product of the catalytic oxidation of cyclohexane to cyclohexanone/cyclohexanol with oxygen or oxygen-comprising gases and by water extraction of the reaction mixture, by
- 10 hydrogenating the carboxylic acid mixture, esterifying and hydrogenating a substream to hexanediol and cyclizing 6-hydroxycaproic ester, the 1,4-cyclohexanediols being removed either in the course of fractionation of the esterification mixture or last from the caprolactone.

Figure 1