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(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB00/00349 (22) International Filing Date: 27 March 2000 (27.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 9907801.6 6 April 1999 (06.04.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ROLIC AG [CH/CH]; Innere Güterstrasse 2, CH-6301 Zug (CH). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SEIBERLE, Hubert [DE/DE]; Bodenseestrasse 1, D-79576 Weil am Rhein (DE). MARCK, Guy [FR/FR]; 16A, rue du Kaegy, F-68440 Schlierbach (FR). MULLER, Olivier [FR/FR]; 15, rue Principale, F-68610 Lautenbach (FR). (74) Agent: ENGLAND, Christopher, David; BTG International Limited, 10 Fleet Place, Limeburner Lane, London EC4M 7SB (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.
(54) Title: PHOTOACTIVE POLYMERS (I)		
(57) Abstract A photoactive polymer has general formula (I) in which: P is a photoactive group which can photoisomerise and/or photodimerise; B represents an aromatic or alicyclic group, or B further represents a nitrogen atom or -CR²-; A, C, D each independently of the other represents an aromatic or alicyclic group; M represents a repeating monomer unit in a homo- or copolymer; S¹, S², S³, S⁴, S⁵ represent a single covalent bond or a spacer unit; n¹, n² are each independently a positive integer up to 2 with the proviso that n¹ + n² ≤ 2; R¹ is a hydrogen atom, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue wherein R² represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl. The photoactive polymers may be used as orientation layers for liquid crystals and in the construction of unstructured and structured optical elements and multi-layer systems.		