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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL97/00467 (22) International Filing Date: 14 August 1997 (14.08.97) (30) Priority Data: 96202931.0 21 October 1996 (21.10.96) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: NL et al. PCT/NL97/00033 5 February 1997 (05.02.97) WO (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: NL et al. (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): DSM N.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL). E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): GUIT, Rudolf, Philippus, Maria [NL/NL]; Boviersdaal 12, NL-6228 GP Maastricht (NL). (74) Agent: CRAMWINCKEL, Michiel; Octrooibureau DSM, P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).		(81) Designated States: AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), 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 TO SEPARATE EPSILON-CAPROLACTAM FROM 6-AMINOCAPROAMIDE AND 6-AMINOCAPROAMIDE OLIGOMERS (57) Abstract Process to separate ϵ-caprolactam from 6-aminocaproamide and 6-aminocaproamide oligomers, wherein ϵ-caprolactam, 6-aminocaproamide and 6-aminocaproamide oligomers are present in a first aqueous starting mixture, which mixture is contacted with an alcohol extraction solvent, resulting in a first aqueous raffinate phase which is poor in ϵ-caprolactam and an alcohol phase which is rich in ϵ-caprolactam and which alcohol phase contains 6-aminocaproamide and/or 6-aminocaproamide oligomers, wherein the latter alcohol phase is subsequently contacted with water (backwash water) resulting in an alcohol extract phase poor in 6-aminocaproamide and/or 6-aminocaproamide oligomers and a second aqueous raffinate phase rich in 6-aminocaproamide and/or 6-aminocaproamide oligomers.		