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International Bureau

200004314-1



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07D 307/00	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/38856 (43) International Publication Date: 5 August 1999 (05.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/00336 (22) International Filing Date: 19 January 1999 (19.01.99) (30) Priority Data: ① MI98A000193 ✓ 2 February 1998 (02.02.98) ✓ IT ✓ (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ① LONZA S.P.A. ✓ [IT/IT]; Via Vittor Pisani, 31, I-20124 Mailand (IT). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ① CASTIGLIONI, Gian, ✓ Luca ✓ [IT/IT]; Via Roseto, 15, I-47036 Riccione (IT). ② FUMAGALLI, Carlo ✓ [IT/IT]; Via C. Albani, 2/a, I-24061 ✓ Albano S. Alessandro (IT). (74) Agents: RAUBER, Beat et al.; Lonza AG, Patentabteilung, Postfach, CH-4002 Basel (CH).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, 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, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, (SG) SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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 <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i> 1 PD. IPC: C07D 307/33 1 appl. ⁿ IPR 4/8/99 2 Invs.
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GAMMA-BUTYROLACTONE ✓		
(57) Abstract A new process for the production of gamma-butyrolactone is described. Starting from maleic and/or succinic anhydride the conversion takes place in the vapour phase in the presence of a Cu/Cr catalyst.		