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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):

CELANESE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
[US/US]; 1601 West Lbj Freeway, Dallas, TX
75234-6034 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KOTSIANIS, Ilias**
[US/US]; 7171 Buffalo Speedway, Apt. 1233, Houston,
TX 77025 (US). **KIMMICH, Barbara, F.M.** [US/US];
82b Anderson Hill Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 (US).
MEILCHEN, Melchoir, A. [DE/US]; 2122 Heather
Green Drive, Houston, TX 77062 (US). **WANG, Hang**

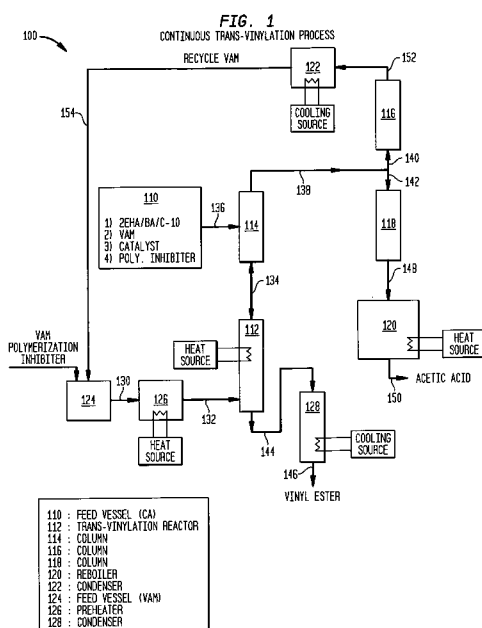
[CN/US]; 3143 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059
(US). **BARVE, Prashant, P.** [IN/IN]; Plot No. 56, Sur-
vey No. 151/A1, Prathamesh Park, Society, Balewadi
Road, Baner, Pune-411 045 (IN). **KULKARNI,**
Bhaskar, D. [IN/IN]; Bungalow B-5, National Chemical
Laboratory, Colony, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411
008 (IN). **CHAPHEKAR, Gopal, M.** [IN/IN]; Block No.
A-204, Westend Riverview, Aundh, Pune-411 007 (IN).
SHINDE, Ravindra, W. [IN/IN]; Vishwanath Phase-1,
Survey No. 110/1, D-18, Lokpriya Nagari, Dhanori Road,
Vishrantwadi, Pune-411 05 (IN). **GUPTE, Milind, Y.**
[IN/IN]; E-2 National Chemical Laboratory Colony,
Dr. homi, Bhabha Road, Pune-411 008 (IN). **KAMBLE,**
Sanjay, P. [IN/IN]; E-66, National Chemical Laboratory
Colony, Dr. Gomi, Bhabha Road, Pune-411 008 (IN).
SHINTRE, Satish, N. [IN/IN]; Flat No. 1, Janhavi Apart-
ment,lic Colony, Paud Road, Near Bedekar Mandir,
Kothrud, Pune-411 038 (IN).

(74) Agent: **FERRELL, Michael, W.**; Ferrells, PLLC, P.O.
Box 312, Clifton, VA 20124-1706 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CONTINUOUS TRANSVINYLATION OF CARBOXYLIC ACIDS WITH VINYL ACETATE



(57) Abstract: A continuous process is provided for selective formation of a vinyl ester by reactive distillation from a corresponding carboxylic acid. Carboxylic acid, vinyl acetate, and a palladium acetate - bidentate ligand catalyst complex are provided and reacted in a typical embodiment. Acetic acid and vinyl acetate are continuously removed from the reaction mixture and vinyl acetate is recycled to the reaction mixture. The vinyl ester product is separated from the vinyl acetate, residual carboxylic acid, residual acetic acid, and catalyst.



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