



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
C07C 51/00 (2006.01) *C07C 53/02* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/EP2012/060845
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
8 June 2012 (08.06.2012)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
11169224.0 9 June 2011 (09.06.2011) EP
- (71) **Applicant** (*for all designated States except US*): **BASF SE**
[DE/DE]; 67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).
- (72) **Inventors; and**
- (75) **Inventors/Applicants** (*for US only*): **FACHINETTI, Giuseppe** [IT/IT]; via G. Brodolini 2A, I-56122 Pisa (IT).
PRETI, Debora [IT/IT]; Viale Amedeo 51, I-56019 Nodica-Vecchiano (Pi) (IT).
- (74) **Common Representative:** **BASF SE**; 67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).

(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

(54) **Title:** PROCESS FOR PREPARING FORMIC ACID

(57) **Abstract:** A process for preparing formic acid by hydrogenation of carbon dioxide in the presence of a tertiary amine (I) and a catalyst at a pressure of from 0.2 to 30 MPa abs and a temperature of from 20 to 200°C, wherein the catalyst is a heterogeneous catalyst comprising gold.

