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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1,2-PROPANEDIOL

(57) Abstract: In a method for preparing 1,2-propanediol comprising step a) of reacting propene with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst mixture comprising a phase transfer catalyst and a heteropolytungstate in a liquid reaction mixture comprising an aqueous phase with a maximum apparent pH of 6 and an organic phase; step b) of separating the reaction mixture into an aqueous phase (P_a) comprising 1,2-propanediol and formic acid and an organic phase (P_o); step c) of recycling at least part of the separated organic phase (P_o) to step a); step d) of contacting at least a part of the separated aqueous phase (P_a) with a palladium catalyst; and step e) of recovering 1,2-propanediol from the aqueous phase provided by step d); step d) reduces the content of formic acid.



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