

Method for the production of 1,6-hexanediol

Abstract

- 5 The present invention provides a process for preparing 1,6-hexanediol having a purity of $\geq 99.5\%$ by weight by catalytically dimerizing acrylic esters and catalytically hydrogenating the hexenedioic diesters obtained in this way to 1,6-hexanediol by
 - 10 a) dimerizing C₁- to C₈-acrylic esters in the presence of at least one rhodium compound to give mixtures of predominantly 2- and 3-hexenedioic diesters,
 - b) hydrogenating the resulting dimerizing effluent in the presence of chromium-free catalysts comprising predominantly copper as the hydrogenation component and
 - 15 c) purifying the crude 1,6-hexanediol obtained in this way by fractional distillation.