CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing an aromatic carbonate, comprising reacting a dialkyl carbonate or an alkyl aryl carbonate with an aryl alcohol or an alkyl aryl carbonate, resulting in an aromatic carbonate which is an alkyl aryl carbonate or a diaryl carbonate, wherein a composition comprising a titanium or zirconium alkoxide, wherein the alkoxy group in the titanium or zirconium alkoxide is a group of formula $R\text{-}O^-$ wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and isopropyl, and wherein the composition additionally comprises 0.1 to 50 wt.% of an alcohol, based on the total weight of the composition, is mixed with an alcohol or an organic carbonate, and the mixture thus obtained is contacted with said dialkyl carbonate or alkyl aryl carbonate and aryl alcohol or alkyl aryl carbonate to catalyze the preparation of the aromatic carbonate.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the alcohol in the composition, before mixing the composition with an alcohol or an organic carbonate, is 0.1 to 20 wt.%, based on the total weight of the composition.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the alcohol in the composition, before mixing the composition with an alcohol or an organic carbonate, is an alkyl alcohol or an aryl alcohol.

4. The process according to claim 3, wherein the alcohol in the composition, before mixing the composition with an alcohol or an organic carbonate, is an alkyl alcohol of formula R-OH wherein R is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

5. The process according to claim 4, wherein the alkyl alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, n-propanol and isopropanol.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein an alcohol is mixed with the composition comprising a titanium or zirconium alkoxide, which alcohol is an alkyl alcohol or an aryl alcohol.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the alcohol is an alkyl alcohol of formula R-OH wherein R is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

8. The process according to claim 6, wherein the alcohol as contained in the composition comprising a titanium or zirconium alkoxide is the same as the alcohol with which said composition is mixed.

9. The process according to claim 1, wherein the step of mixing an alcohol or an organic carbonate with the composition comprising a titanium or zirconium alkoxide is preceded by a step comprising transporting said composition.

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the temperature during transport is of from -10 to 50 °C.

11. The process for making a polycarbonate, comprising reacting a dihydroxy aromatic compound with a diaryl carbonate prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1.

12. The process for making a polycarbonate, comprising preparing a diaryl carbonate in accordance with the process of claim 1, and reacting a dihydroxy aromatic compound with the diaryl carbonate thus obtained.