

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 October 2004 (21.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/089866 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07C 68/06**,
29/12, 29/09, 31/20, C07D 317/36

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/050480

(22) International Filing Date: 7 April 2004 (07.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03252261.7 9 April 2003 (09.04.2003) EP

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

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ALKANEDIOL

(57) Abstract: Process for the preparation of alkanediol, which process comprises (a) contacting alkylene oxide with carbon dioxide in the presence of catalyst to obtain a first liquid reaction mixture containing cyclic carbonate, (b) optionally removing carbon dioxide and/or alkylene oxide, (c) increasing the pressure of the liquid reaction mixture obtained in step (a) and/or (b), (d) contacting the pressurized first reaction mixture obtained in step (c) with water in the presence of catalyst to obtain a second reaction mixture containing alkanediol and carbon dioxide, (e) separating the second reaction mixture into a liquid effluent and a gaseous effluent containing carbon dioxide, and (f) recycling at least part of the gaseous effluent containing carbon dioxide to step (a), in which process the pressure in step (d) is higher than the pressure in step (a).

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