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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SHELL
INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ
B.V.** [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The
Hague (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **VAPORCIYAN, Garo
Garbis** [US/US]; 303 Hickory Post, Houston, Texas 77079
(US).

(74) Agent: **ZEESTRATEN, Albertus W.J.**; P.O. Box 384,
NL-2501 CJ The Hague (NL).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A DIARYL CARBONATE

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the preparation of a diaryl carbonate, which comprises: (i) contacting an aromatic non-hydroxy compound with a carboxylic acid of formula $\text{HOC}(=\text{O})\text{R}^1$ (I), wherein R^1 is a hydrocarbyl group, and with an oxygen containing gas in the presence of a catalyst, resulting in water and an aromatic carboxylic acid ester of formula $\text{R}^2\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{R}^1$ (II), wherein R^2 is an aryl group originating from the aromatic non-hydroxy compound; and (ii) contacting the aromatic carboxylic acid ester of formula (II) from step (i) with a dialkyl carbonate of formula $\text{R}^3\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OR}^4$ (III), wherein R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and are alkyl groups, in the presence of a catalyst, resulting in a diaryl carbonate of formula $\text{R}^2\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OR}^4$ (IV) and an alkyl carboxylic acid ester of formula $\text{R}^3\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{R}^1$ (V), wherein R^3 is R^3 or R^4 .



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