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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/01462 (22) International Filing Date: 17 June 1996 (17.06.96) (30) Priority Data: 9512727.0 22 June 1995 (22.06.95) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BP CHEMICALS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Britannic House, 1 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7BA (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ATKINS, Martin, Philip [GB/GB]; 29 Chaucer Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QU (GB). DEPEGE, Corinne, Laurence [FR/FR]; 5B, rue d'Allagnat, F-63000 Clermont-Ferrand (FR). FORANO, Claude, René, Marcel [FR/FR]; Rue Bary-Gergovie, F-63670 La Roche Blanche (FR). (74) Agent: KRISHNAN, Suryanarayana, Kalyana; BP International Limited, Group Patents & Agreements, Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN (GB).	(51) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. Received in PAT 7 JAN 1997	

(54) Title: **SYNTHESIS OF GLYCOL ETHERS**

(57) Abstract

This invention relates to a process for making glycol ethers by reacting an olefin oxide with an alcohol over a catalyst comprising a layered double hydroxide (LDH) clay with its layered structure intact and having interlamellar anions at least some of which are metal anions or (poly)oxometallate anions. In the LDH clays, the interlamellar anions present are inorganic metal anions, oxometallate or polyoxometallate anions and include *inter alia* one or more of the following anions: chromium, vanadium, molybdenum and phosphorus, and (poly)oxoanions thereof. A copper-chromium *hydrotalcite* anionic clay or a magnesium-aluminium *hydrotalcite* anionic clay exchanged with (poly)oxometallate anions are preferred.