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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1,2-PROPANEDIOL

(57) Abstract: In a method for preparing 1,2-propanediol comprising step a) of reacting propene with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst mixture comprising a phase transfer catalyst and a heteropolytungstate in a liquid reaction mixture comprising an aqueous phase with a maximum apparent pH of 6 and an organic phase; step b) of separating the reaction mixture into an aqueous phase (Pa) comprising 1,2-propanediol and phosphoric acid esters of 1,2-propanediol and an organic phase (Po); step c) of recycling at least part of the separated organic phase (Po) to step a); step d) of heating at least a part of the separated aqueous phase (Pa) to a temperature of more than 140 °C at a pressure sufficient to maintain at least part of said aqueous phase as a liquid; and step e) of recovering 1,2-propanediol from the heated aqueous phase; heating step d) cleaves phosphoric acid esters of 1,2-propanediol into 1,2-propanediol and phosphoric acid.