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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) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **VON HEBEL, Klaas, Lambertus** [NL/NL]; Badhuisweg 3, NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL). **LANGE, Jean-Paul** [BE/NL]; Badhuisweg 3, NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROPANEDIOL

(57) Abstract: Process for the preparation of 1,2-propanediol from propylene oxide, which process comprises: (a) contacting propylene oxide with carbon dioxide in the presence of a homogeneous phosphorus containing catalyst to obtain propylene carbonate, (b) optionally removing at least part of the carbon dioxide, (c) adding water and/or an alcohol to the reaction product containing propylene carbonate and phosphorus containing catalyst and contacting the mixture with a heterogeneous catalyst to obtain 1,2-propanediol in combination with dialkylcarbonate and/or carbon dioxide, and (d) separating 1,2-propanediol from the reaction product obtained.

