[0017a] In one aspect, there is provided a process for the enzymatic conversion of an L-methionine precursor with methyl mercaptan to obtain L-methionine, wherein the methyl mercaptan partial pressure in the reaction vessel over the reaction medium ranges from 10 kPa to 180 kPa at the reaction temperature.

[0017b] In another aspect, there is provided a process for the preparation of L-methionine comprising the steps of:

1) preparing a L-methionine precursor-producing strain and producing a L-methionine precursor by the fermentation of the strain,
2) converting said L-methionine precursor into L-methionine, according to the enzymatic conversion process as defined above, and
3) collecting the obtained L-methionine.