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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL99/00148 (22) International Filing Date: 17 March 1999 (17.03.99) (30) Priority Data: 98200875.7- 20 March 1998 (20.03.98) EP (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): DSM N.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL). E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): AGTERBERG, Frank, Petrus, Willibrord [NL/NL]; Geldersoverkwartier 9, NL-6118 EH Susteren (NL). GUIT, Rudolf, Philippus, Maria [NL/NL]; Boviersdaal 12, NL-6228 GP Maastricht (NL). HAASEN, Nicolaas, Franciscus [NL/NL]; Lintjeshaag 20, NL-6141 MB Sittard (NL). (74) Agent: KLEIBORN, Paul, Erik; OCTROOIBUREAU DSM, P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CONTINUOUS PURIFICATION OF CRUDE ϵ-CAPROLACTAM (57) Abstract The invention relates to a process for the purification of crude ϵ-caprolactam, wherein crude ϵ-caprolactam prepared by cyclization of alkyl 6-aminocaproate, 6-aminocapronitrile, 6-aminocaproic acid, 6 aminocaproic amide and/or oligomers thereof, is subjected to a crystallization process.		