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(71) Applicant: **BASF SE** [DE/DE]; Carl-Bosch-Strasse 38, 67056 Ludwigshafen Am Rhein (DE).

(72) Inventors: **WITZEL, Sina**; Carl-Bosch-Strasse 38, 67056 Ludwigshafen am Rhein (DE). **SUKOPP, Martin**; Carl-Bosch-Strasse 38, 67056 Ludwigshafen am Rhein (DE). **REIN, Christian**; Carl-Bosch-Strasse 38, 67056 Ludwigshafen am Rhein (DE). **NOCENTINI, Tiziano**; Rheinfelderstrasse, 4133 Muttentz (CH).

(74) Agent: **BASF IP ASSOCIATION**; BASF SE GBI - C006, 67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF HYDROXYPHENYLCARBOXYLIC ACID ESTERS USING CATALYTIC TRANSESTERIFICATION

(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of hydroxyphenylcarboxylic acid esters comprising a catalytic transesterification step using alkali metal carbonates or alkali metal bicarbonates as catalysts. The transesterification process, wherein (a) a vessel is charged with a substituted phenol comprising a carboxylic methoxy ester moiety, which moiety is linked directly - or indirectly via an alkyl chain C_mH_{2m} - to the phenolic ring, and a fatty alcohol, (b) the mixture of the two components is heated above the melting point of the two components and vacuum is applied, and an alkali metal carbonate or an alkali metal bicarbonate is already present at step (b) or is added to the liquid mixture at step (c), and the transesterification reaction is allowed to happen. The use of alkali metal carbonates or alkali metal bicarbonate as catalysts leads to a safe, sustainable, environmentally friendly process, which avoids toxic side products and does not require extensive conditioning.



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