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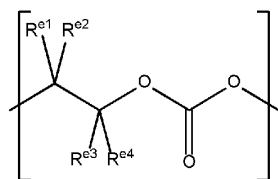
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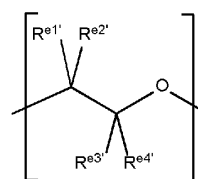
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(I)



(II)

(57) **Abstract:** The invention concerns a surface-active agent comprising a polycarbonate block polyether of the formula (I) $Z^1-(PC)_P-(PE)_Q-Z^2 \dots (I)$ wherein PC represents a carbonate block with P repeat units of formula (I) wherein R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, with the proviso that when one of R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, the remaining R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are H.; PE represents a polyether block with Q repeat units of formula (II) wherein $R^{e1'}$, $R^{e2'}$, $R^{e3'}$, and $R^{e4'}$ are independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate groups, with the proviso that when one of $R^{e1'}$, $R^{e2'}$, $R^{e3'}$, and $R^{e4'}$ is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, the remaining $R^{e1'}$, $R^{e2'}$, $R^{e3'}$, and $R^{e4'}$ are H.; Z^1 is R, R-O, R-C(O)-O- or R-O-C(O)-O; R is an optionally substituted straight or branched chain C_1 - C_{11} alkyl group; Z^2 is H, R, R-(O)C or R-O-(O)C; and wherein the value of P is greater than the value of Q.

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