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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/06996 (22) International Filing Date: 14 September 1999 (14.09.99) (30) Priority Data: 98203097.5 16 September 1998 (16.09.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOVA CHEMICALS (INTERNATIONAL) S.A [CH/CH]; Chemins des Mazots 2, CH-1700 Fribourg (CH). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BERGHMANS, Michel, Florentine, Jozef [BE/NL]; Lijndonk 25, NL-4825 BG Breda (NL). BLEIJENBERG, Karel, Cornelis [NL/NL]; Lijndonk 25, NL-4825 BG Breda (NL). METSAARS, Alphonsus, Catharina, Gerardus [NL/NL], Lijndonk 25, NL-4825 BG Breda (NL). (74) Agent: HARRISON, David, C., Mewbum Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6HP (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, 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.</i> <i>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 PREPARATION OF EXPANDED POLYVINYLARENE PARTICLES (57) Abstract Process for the preparation of expanded polyvinylarene particles in which polyvinylarene particles pre-expanded to an apparent density d_0 ranging between 600 and 200 kg/m³ are impregnated by an inorganic gas, and the impregnated particles thus obtained are expanded to an apparent density of at least three times lower than d_0.		