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0101108-9 29 March 2001 (29.03.2001) SE(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **AKZO NOBEL NV** [NL/NL]; P.O. Box 9300, NL-6800 SB Arnhem (NL).

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(54) Title: USE OF A QUATERNARY AMMONIUM ALKYL HYDROXYETHYL CELLULOSE ETHER AS A CONDITIONER FOR HAIR AND SKIN

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the use of a quaternary ammonium hydroxyethyl cellulose ether that comprises an ether substituent containing an alkyl group with 2-4 carbon atoms, preferably 2 carbon atoms, having a DS_{alkyl} of 0.1-2.5, preferably 0.2-2.0 and most preferably 0.3-1.5, as a hair and skin conditioner. The cellulose ether exhibits an increased substantivity to hair, without showing any build-up after repetitive shampooing. Hair that has been treated with the above-mentioned cellulose ether also shows an improved wet combability. A hair or skin conditioning composition and a solid soap bar, as well as a certain cellulose ether and a process for its production are also disclosed.