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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: **89830189.0**

51 Int. Cl.4: **C 10 L 9/00**
C 22 B 3/00

22 Date of filing: **05.05.89**

30 Priority: **05.05.88 IT 4792088**

43 Date of publication of application:
08.11.89 Bulletin 89/45

84 Designated Contracting States: **DE FR GB NL**

88 Date of deferred publication of search report:
03.01.90 Bulletin 90/01

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54 **Process for the chemical-biological desulphurization of coal.**

57 A process for the chemical-biological desulphurization of coal, said process being carried out in two separate sections: a section for the chemical treatment of finely divided coal with a leaching water solution containing ferric sulfate, ferrous sulfate and sulfuric acid, and a section for the biological regeneration of the exhausted leaching solution, with oxidation of ferrous sulfate to ferric sulfate through the cation of a microorganism of the genus Thiobacillus, which preferably belongs to a selected mutant strain of *T. ferrooxidans*.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	KIRK-OTHMER: "Encyclopedia of chemical technology", vol. 6, 1979, 3rd edition, pages 314-324, A. Wiley-Interscience, New York, US * Pages 316-318 *	1-7	C 10 L 9/00 C 22 B 3/00
Y	US-A-2 829 964 (ZIMMERLEY et al.) * Claims 1-3,10; figures 1-6 *	1-7	
X	B.W.K. BRENNSTOFF-WÄRME-KRAFT, vol. 38, no. 5, May 1986, pages 187-188, Düsseldorf, DE; M. BEYER et al.: "Mikrobielle Kohleentschwefelung" * Seite 187, mittlere Spalte *	1	
A	US-A-4 206 288 (DETZ et al.) * Claims 1-48 *	1-17	
A	FUEL, no. 2, March 1963, pages 113-124; M.P. SILVERMAN et al.: "Removal of pyritic sulphur from coal by bacterial action" * Page 123, lines 22-25 *	8,9	
A	PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOHYDROMETALLURGY, Vancouver, 21st-24th August 1985, pages 151-164, Elsevier, Amsterdam, NL; R.W. LAWRENCE et al.: "Fundamental and applied biohydrometallurgy" * Pages 151-164 *	1-17	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 06-10-1989	Examiner MEERTENS J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	