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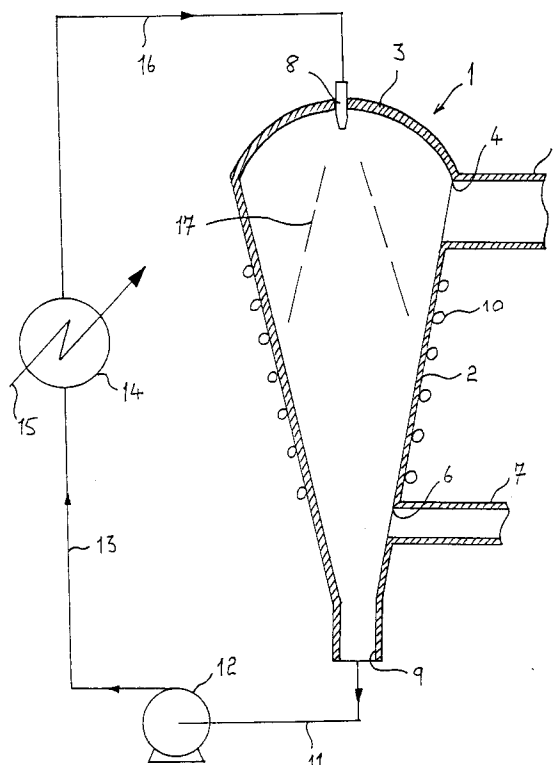
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(54) Process and apparatus for generating a vacuum.

(57) A process for the generation of a vacuum in a vessel comprises generating a vapour by heating a reservoir of a paraffin wax, discharging the vapour through an inlet into a gas entrainment zone connected to the vessel, thereby generating a vapour jet in the entrainment zone, allowing gas from the vessel to enter the vapour jet, allowing the vapour jet containing the gas to pass to a condensation zone, condensing vapour from the vapour jet in the condensation zone and separately recovering the condensed wax and the uncondensed material. Apparatus for the generation of a vacuum comprises a reservoir of a paraffin wax, heating means (15) to generate a vapour from the paraffin wax, a vapour conduit (16) providing a passage for the vapour, a pump vessel (1), which vessel (1) comprises a gas entrainment zone, a vapour inlet (8) connected to the vapour conduit (16) and of a form whereby vapour entering the pump vessel (1) is formed into a vapour jet (17) extending into the gas entrainment zone, a gas inlet (4) whereby gas entering the pump vessel is caused to contact the vapour jet (17), a vapour condensation zone arranged to receive the gas and vapour jet leaving the entrainment zone, cooling means (10) to condense vapour in the vapour condensation zone and means to recover separately from the condensation zone the condensed vapour and the gas. The paraffin wax is preferably a synthetic wax, in particular a wax prepared by a Fischer-

Tropsch synthesis.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 20 3755

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.5)
A	GB-A-1 435 942 (HOLLAND) ---		F 04 F 5/36
A	GB-A- 856 849 (FARBWERKE HOECHST A.G.) ---		F 04 F 9/00
A	FR-A-2 434 287 (GROENHOF) -----		F 04 F 5/20
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			F 04 F
The present search report has been drawn up for the reasons			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30-06-1993	Examiner VON ARX H P
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			



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,
namely:

see sheet -B-

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

namely claims: 1-10



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-10: A process for the generation of a vacuum
2. Claims 11-17: A process and apparatus for the distillation of a paraffin wax